

June 8 2008

'INUNDATED' VALLEY



DEVASTATING DELUGE LEAVES TERRE HAUTE, VALLEY SUBMERGED

TRIBUNE-STAR STAFF REPORT

Wealthy or poor, from the riverbottoms to some of the area's toniest neighborhoods, tens of thousands of Wabash Valley residents suffered the effects Saturday of biblical proportions of rain that fell over a 24-hour span.

State and local officials could not estimate the number of people in Vigo and surrounding counties who had to be evacuated from their homes. By nightfall, about 100 evacuees had taken shelter in Terre Haute North Vigo High School where the Red Cross and staff members of Bethesda Gardens nursing home provided food, water and sleeping cots.

Rising waters from rivers, streams and already-saturated lowlands temporarily rendered the city of Brazil a virtual island, closed Interstate 70 in both directions well into the night and made scores of major highways, roads and bridges throughout Indiana and Illinois impassable.

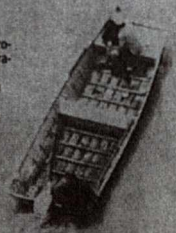
► Turn to SUBMERGED, A2

INSIDE

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WORKING FOR YOU

Coverage of Saturday's Valley-wide flood crisis was produced by the following Tribune-Star staff writers, photographers and editors:
Arthur E. Foulkes, Crystal Garcia, Brian M. Boyce, Jim Avelis, Bob Poynter, Stephanie Salter, Zach Taylor, Alica Morgan, James Willis, Chad Steenerson and Kyle McCall.



Mangover: Jeremy Ellins carries sandbags with other volunteers building a wall to try and keep the waters of Sugar Creek out of West Terre Haute.



Submerged: A vehicle sits along U.S. 41 in the Southwood subdivision Saturday afternoon as waters continued to rise in the area.



Salic: Terre Haute Fire Lt. Jason Kane carries Preston Dowell while his sister Shelby is carried by their dad Steve. Dowell's car became stalled in water crossing Indiana 46 just south of I-70 early Saturday morning.

Water work: A rescue boat (in background) makes its way along Springfield Road Saturday afternoon. Residents of nearby Harbor-side Healthcare had to be rescued from the rising waters. At the top of the page, volunteers spread across U.S. 40 on the west side of West Terre Haute building a wall of sandbags to stem the flow of Sugar Creek.

Submerged: Navigating city a challenge

Continued from A1

Mike Smith, a coordinating officer with the Federal Emergency Management Agency, pronounced the flood area "extensive" and said the entire Valley was "inundated."

In Vermillion County emergency management officials declared the city of Clinton a disaster area for the second time in a week.

While many neighborhoods in Terre Haute appeared to be untouched by the nearly 7 inches of rain that fell from Friday to Saturday morning, navigating the city became a challenge, at best, and impossible in several areas. The city's southside from Springhill Road and Seventh Street, south past Allendale subdivision, was hit particularly hard.

According to the Honey Creek Fire Department, some residents of the affluent Allendale neighborhood were rescued from their rooftops by Department of Natural Resources crews in boats. Large areas of the Idle Creek

golf course were under water.

In Prairieton, volunteer rescuers ferried the stranded in horse buggies and haywagons. In West Terre Haute, at least 150 people helped fill and stack sandbags to keep rising waters from engulfing the town.

The Bethesda Gardens residents, most of them elderly, had been evacuated from their facility just east of U.S. 41 South earlier in the day and taken to Terre Haute South Vigo High School. But encroaching water at the high school forced a second move to the city's northern high school on Maple Avenue.

The water that crept to the edges of South Vigo High School also prompted Regional Hospital to announce a "total diversion" away from its facility to Union Hospital, also on the city's north side.

Terre Haute's far north end, however, had its own problem spots, at the Mill Dam bridge and the widely flooded intersection of Park Avenue and Lafayette Street.

Volunteers stacked sandbags at the entrance of the post office at Thomas Avenue and across Lafayette Street in front of Otter Creek Middle School.

Despite the high number of emergency rescues, damaged homes and evacuations, no major injuries or deaths were reported.

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Sunday, June 8, 2008

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INSIDE SECTION

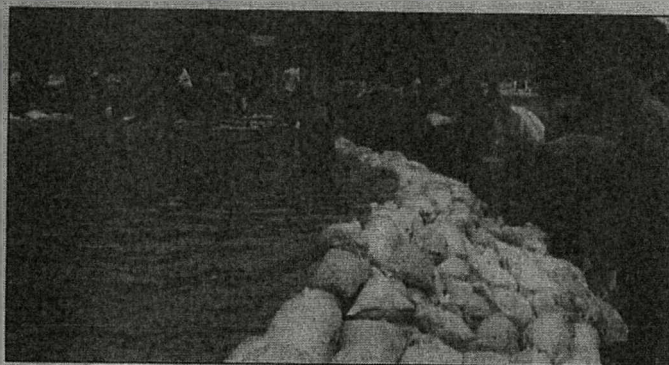
Business B4
Local & Bistate B1-B3
Valley Dispatch B3

TribStar.com

B

BATTLING NATURE

WEST TERRE HAUTE DRAWS A LINE
WITH SAND TO FIGHT FLOODING



Tribune-Star/Don Arnold

Stem the tide: Volunteers build the wall of sandbags across U.S. 40 west of West Terre Haute on Saturday afternoon

'I've lived here all my life and I've never seen anything like this'

By BRIAN M. BOYCE
TRIBUNE-STAR

The fight began about 6 a.m. Saturday when the waters of Sugar Creek tried to take the homes of West Terre Haute downriver.

By 11 a.m., teams of bulldozers and more than 150 men had made their stand in a line crossing U.S. 40 at the Bennett's Lane intersection. There they shored sand into bags and threw them against the rising pool creeping eastward along the highway.

INSIDE
■ Wabash Valley Community Foundation donates \$50,000 to Red Cross, B5
■ Vigo officials request National Guard help, with new request, B5

The question that passed from mouth to ear all morning was when and if the Twin Lakes Levee at Paris, Ill., would break. Because if it did, no one doubted what would occur.

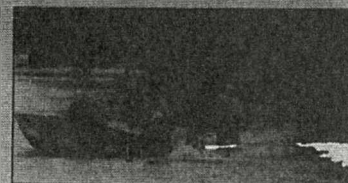
Muddy women and their children carried shovels by the armload through waist-deep waters in the median of the national highway, while every available tow truck made the rounds through town, hauling loads of workers in their truck beds.

► Turn to **BATTLING, B5**



Tribune-Star/Don Arnold

Help's coming: Tony Wyrick runs through the rising waters of Sugar Creek with sandbags to fill for the volunteers who showed up. At one point, more than 150 men and women were at work trying to hold back the floodwaters.



Tribune-Star/Don Arnold

Rising waters: Wintrop Court residents Mark Marquis and Michelle Moulton walk past a water rescue boat from the Sugar Creek Volunteer Fire Department heading into The Crossings to help stranded residents.

Many residents left searching for a place to stay

By CRYSTAL GARCIA
AND ARTHUR E. FOULKES
TRIBUNE-STAR

Oz and Zen went on their first cruise Saturday, but instead of going to an exotic locale, they traveled across the Heritage Trail apartment complex grounds.

A large amount of rain in a short amount of time left much of the Wabash Valley under water and many residents — and their pets — searching for a place to stay. Some of them had to be rescued by boat.

Macy Kallb, 32, a resident at Heritage Trail on Terre Haute's eastside, was one of those people. She and her two cats, Oz and Zen, were evacuated from their home yesterday in a small motorboat.

"They're a little freaked out, but they're OK," she said as she petted the cats through the holes of their crate.

When Kallb woke up, she thought the big news was going to be Sen. Hillary Clinton announcing her support for



Tribune-Star/Don Arnold

Sheltered: Josh Thomas, Rachel Selvia and 3-year-old Natalie Selvia take shelter in the West Vigo Community Center on Saturday afternoon.

Sen. Barack Obama, she said. Then a fireman knocked on her door.

"You just don't think about this happening," said the Indiana State University graduate student, who will be staying with her parents in Jasper until she can return to her apartment.

► Turn to **STAY, B6**

"I'm just kind of praying right now, asking God to do what's best at this time."

Vermillion County under a state of emergency

By ARTHUR E. FOULKES
TRIBUNE-STAR

Due to extensive flooding, all Vermillion County roads were closed Saturday until further notice, according to a statement from the Vermillion County commissioners.

Meanwhile, the people of Clinton were praying Saturday that no more rain would fall on their city.

"We've got places in town that just could not take any more rain," said Mayor Jerry Hawkins. Feather Creek.

which drains much of the city into the Wabash River, has stopped running, Hawkins noted. If more rain arrives, the creek could start backing up into the town, he said. "We have absolutely no capacity to take any more rain."

Vermillion County officials declared a state of emergency in Clinton on Saturday, just a few days after an earlier flood-related state of emergency had expired in the town.

► Turn to **VERMILLION, B6**

'57 Allis-Chalmers becomes golden chariot for the stranded



MARK BENNETT
TRIBUNE-STAR

In bare feet, with her pant legs rolled up, Joan Pohlman pulled cornstarches from the water surrounding the grocery store she and her husband run.

Their family spent last winter remodeling the place, Joan & Yogi's. "Day and night," as her father-in-law, Ted Pohlman, put it, "We'd be up here till 2 or 3 o'clock in the morning."

On Saturday, pumps charged to keep the water in the store's basement from rising higher than a foot and a half deep. Neighbors from around the store on Indiana 63 just north of Prairieton cleared

NOT TODAY

■ Stephanie Salter's column will return in Wednesday's edition of the Tribune-Star.

cornstarches and debris from the flooding waters pouring through Honey Creek and streams leading to the Wabash River.

"If it hadn't been for all of the neighbors helping, we'd have been under water," Ted said, standing in a current of water rushing over the roadway in front of the store.

At its entrance, Joan pushed her hair behind her ears and scanned the mud-covered parking lot for more debris. "It's a small town," she said. "This isn't like Wal-Mart or Kmart. Everybody wants to help you."

As she spoke, Larry Sample and his son Jason loaded another dozen people on the haywagon they were pulling with a tractor. "It's about a '57, I think. Allis-Chalmers WD-45," Larry said. "Looks a little rough, but it'll do the job."

► Turn to **BENNETT, B5**



Helping: Larry Sample and his son Jason worked Saturday to help those stranded by the high water.
Tribune-Star/
Mark Bennett

Battling: 'If their levee breaks, we're all in big trouble'

Continued from B1

"Look, the bags are falling," Jason Likens, 20, said while holding his 11-month-old son, Jaydan. It was just before noon and Essex's pregnant wife handed another man a shovel. The wall of sandbags was four-high in places and the highway-wide pool of water was rising to meet it. "They can't keep the water back," he said, watching Sugar Creek spill forth 100 yards away.

Essex and his family were among scores of West Terre Haute residents whose homes were submerged on the other side of the bridge.

But the dirty, sweaty men shoveling sand into bags gave up their shirts long before their cause, and the smell of mosquito repellent mingled in the muddy odor of brackish water.

"Who knows?" Joan Crabb, 17, said when asked how long he and other sandbaggers would be there. "Long enough to hold it back, but that's about it."

Crabb, who lives on South 4th Street in West Terre Haute, was awakened by his brother earlier in the morning and both ran down U.S. 40 to help with the efforts.

"If we keep getting sand, we'll be OK," said Larry Likens of Likens and Sons Tree Service. Likens' trucks were hauling sand, dirt and fill from anywhere they could get it and dumping it in the middle of the highway for the baggers to use.

But like everyone else on the line, Likens' biggest concern by midday was the Twin Lakes Levee in Paris, where 30



Tribune-Star/Tim Arells

Here to help: Soni Price takes shovel to hand filling sandbags with other volunteers in West Terre Haute.

inches of water already was spilling over the top and into Sugar Creek, making its way into their town.

"If it breaks loose, we're in trouble," he said.

Likens and his trucks had been out all morning, but he credited Town Board President Bill Thomas with leading the charge at 6 a.m., "trying to save the town

of West Terre Haute."

Vigo County Commissioner Judy Anderson remarked while watching the rising waters, "I've lived here all my life and I've never seen anything like this."

Anderson, dressed to get wet and dirty, also had been at the sandbaggers' line all morning.

"When something goes on, this bunch really gets on it," she said of the community whose ranks produced a steady stream of volunteers coming in and out of town.

Anderson noted she'd been in contact with Paris officials about the water moving east and relayed that Illinois workers were doing everything they could to keep things together. But, "if their levee breaks, we're all in big trouble."

Larry McGinnis of McGinnis Towing said the last time he'd seen water back up that far was "the flood of '58."

"I'd just gotten out of the service," he said. "Came home to just like this."

And by the time the sun began to descend about 8 p.m., Bill Thomas said the worst of the fight was finished, and the levee in Paris had held its water.

"The water has receded and it appears that West Terre Haute is out of danger," he said late Saturday evening.

Muddy mobile homes were left on their sides, with their contents destroyed and their owners at the West Vigo Community Center, but despite Sugar Creek's best efforts, the town of West Terre Haute did not disappear, and no lives were lost.

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QUICK HITS ON THE FLOOD

TERRE HAUTE

Wabash Valley Community Foundation donates \$50,000 to Red Cross

The Wabash Valley Community Foundation responded to an emergency with an emergency grant.

When Beth Tevlin, executive director of the foundation, heard about flooding that was devastating the Valley, she began calling board members to ask for help.

They decided to donate \$50,000 to the American Red Cross toward flood relief, Tevlin said.

"Everyone I spoke with was in unanimous support of providing this relief," she said. "Everyone in the Wabash Valley needs to be able to help their neighbor, and if we can do it financially, that's great."

This will be the largest emergency grant the group has ever donated, she said, and the second-largest in its history.

Anyone else who wants to provide financial relief for flood victims can mail donations to the Wabash Valley Community Foundation at 2901 Ohio Blvd., Terre Haute, IN 47803.

Make checks payable to the Wabash Valley Flood Relief Fund.

TERRE HAUTE

Vigo County officials request National Guard help, withdraw request

Vigo County officials requested help from the National Guard in the wake of Saturday's flash flooding, but withdrew the call late in the afternoon when rain no longer threatened and the situation appeared to be containable.

Local officials had requested 100 National Guard troops to help emergency responders and volunteers, said J.D. Kesler, deputy director of the Vigo County Emergency Management Agency in Terre Haute.

The Vigo County EMA conducted several water rescues Saturday, Kesler said. County officials activated the emergency operations center at the EMA around 5 a.m., he added.

A reverse 911 call was made to residents of Vigo County a little past 7 a.m., urging people to avoid unnecessary travel. Vigo officials also urged motorists to avoid driving on water covered roads.

Bennett: Fire chief helped coordinate six water rescue units

Continued from B1

To about 50 stranded people, it looked like a golden chariot. Floodwaters penned them in, flowing over the highway at the Honey Creek bridge to the north and building up around the ravines adjacent to the reconstructed curve that replaced the old "Dead Man's Curve" to the south. Some were trying to get out of swamped homes in the Oak Ridge and Prairie Park subdivisions. Others had driven to the store area, then gotten trapped.

Larry and Jason started the morning prepared to give horse carriage rides at a wedding in Terre Haute and at the Merom Chataqua. Those plans changed after more than 6 inches of rainfall hit already rain-soaked Prairie in southern Vigo County.

The Samples made their first rescue with their horse buggy, giving a neighbor a ride out just before the berm of the highway washed out in front of his parked pickup truck. Soon, Larry and Jason switched to the tractor and haywagon, ferrying people from the store area to a dry section of Indiana 63. From there, another Prairieon neighbor, Jack Roberts, used his pickup to drive folks through a series of backroads to Stuckey's at U.S. 41, where their families met them.

Larry's initial mission was "to get some milk and see if anybody needed help." The milk had to wait.

"My concern was, I kept watching the water to see if we were going to lose the road," Larry said. "But people



Tribune-Star/Mark Bennett

Helping out: Larry Samples used his tractor to help people out of high water Saturday.

needed help, so I kept going."

With every load on the haywagon, people shared stories of their predicaments and got reacquainted with familiar faces. Most had waved to each other, or waited in line together at Joan & Yogi's or shared a table at a Prairieon Volunteer Fire Department fish dinner. Now, they were trying to save their homes.

Prairieon Fire Chief Monte Hunt helped coordinate six water rescue units from other communities around the Wabash Valley and Indiana. They'd evacuated

residents from nearly 30 Prairieon households by 7 o'clock Saturday, using boats and hovercraft, with at least 20 more homes still waiting to evacuate.

While those missions went on, Larry and Jason kept their haywagon runs going. Each time, Larry told Monte, "I've got one more to go."

He just kept going. Kyle Pettijohn and Billy Roberts of the Sugar Creek Tactical 41 unit described the rescue of people trying to save some horses. "They got in some swift water, and got pushed up against some

trees," Pettijohn said.

The town saw its most tense moments in years, decades or, perhaps, ever. At nightfall, the Prairieon fire and rescue crews, assisted by a team from Fishers, Ind., saved two people who'd foolishly driven into a flood-covered back road and got stuck.

Seconds before the rescuers used ropes to walk out and pull them out, one of the crewmen said, "It's been a long day." But they kept going.

On Prairieon's south side, resident Tom Moore and his wife drove south of the town to assess the flooding. A woman came out to the road and told him their basement was flooded, and they were walking about 100 yards at a time to bring out belongings. "So I went down and got my boat, and took it to them," Moore said, "and they were tickled to death."

Like Joan Pohlman said, "It's a small town."

She peered out at the store, all of the neighbors with water-soaked clothes, the highway and the sun setting over the disarray. In a determined voice, she said, "The whole community has been good to us, and supported us to help keep us going. They'll come in and have breakfast, or buy gas or milk, because they want us."

Then Larry and Jason loaded up the wagon again and took one more trip toward safety.

Mark Bennett can be reached at markbennett@tribstar.com or (812) 231-4377.



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Stay: 'I've never seen anything like this,' Union Hospital nurse says

► Continued from B1

She said she heard it could be a few days to a week before that return, depending on the weather.

Still, a situation such as this one will help her prepare because she said she planned to make a list of things she'll need should she ever have to evacuate again.

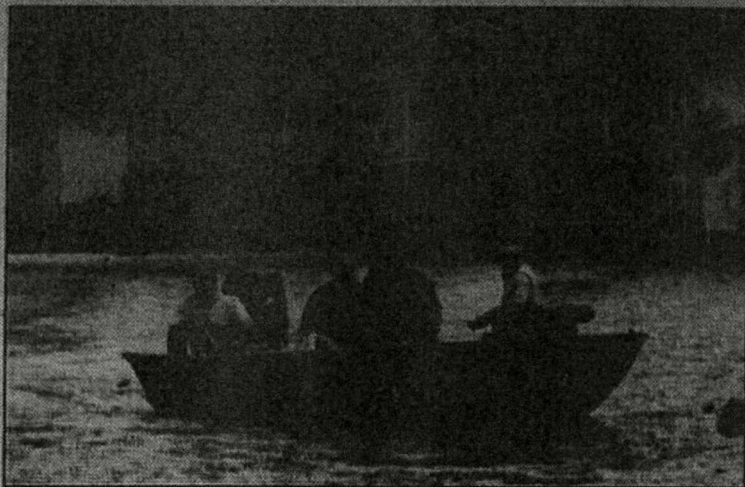
Noting that things could be worse, Kalb said, "If you're going to have a natural disaster, this is the one to pick," because there is a warning with a little time to get to safety, and buildings generally don't fall.

Jamie Hox had left her apartment to do errands, and was surprised when she got back.

"I've never seen it like this," said Hox, a nurse at Union Hospital and a resident of the apartments on Locust Street east of Fruitridge Avenue.

Hox, whose car was still sitting in her driveway with floodwater above all four tires, said she left home Saturday morning to go shopping. When she returned around 10:30 a.m., the road to her complex was deep in fast-moving water. "It looked like rapids," she said.

Nina Eirhart, who lives across Locust Street from the apartments, was also surprised at how quickly the water rose. "It was very, very fast that it happened," she



Evacuation: Firefighters and police personnel leave the Heritage Trail apartment complex after the evacuation of more than 200 residents Saturday afternoon.

said. Eirhart's home was completely surrounded by water about noon Saturday.

Family members helped her get some of her belongings, and her dog, to dry land.

Another evacuee from Saturday's flash flooding was Alexander Jacque Jr., 39, of Winthrop Court Apartments across from Wal-Mart on U.S. 41 south of Terre Haute. Jacque and several other residents of the apartment complex had to wade through deep water to reach safety, he said.

Jacque carried what he could from his apartment

around 9 a.m. as the water was rising fast, he said. He

YOU CAN HELP

■ Individuals or local businesses that want to help families devastated by flooding across the Wabash Valley can mail donations to the American Red Cross of the Wabash Valley at 700 S. Third St. Terre Haute, IN 47802.

■ Donations also can be made securely online at www.redcross.org.

■ For more information, call (812) 232-3393 or 1-866-932-3393.

was later taken with other Winthrop residents to the Red Cross shelter at North Vigo High School.

"We're just waiting to see what's going to happen," Jacque said. "I'm just kind of praying right now, asking God to do what's best at this time."

Also wondering when he could return home was Josh

Thomas, who evacuated to the West Terre Haute Community Center from his home on Comstock Avenue.

Though water hadn't gotten to his house, the roads around it were completely flooded, he said. As he was watching his niece and nephew, his cousin, mother, father and brother were dealing with the sandbagging efforts.

"I've never seen it flood this badly. This is something you see on TV and you don't think it'll ever happen to you," the 17-year-old Thomas said. "It's just crazy. I never thought in a million years I would be stuck from my house and come to the community center to be a refugee."

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Vermillion: Wabash at 26 feet Saturday evening

► Continued from B1

As of Saturday night, several roads in Clinton remained closed. Parts of North Ninth Street, one of the main streets in the town, had been underwater earlier Saturday, Hawkins said.

The Wabash River was at 26 feet Saturday evening, Hawkins said. That is the low end of the major flood range, he added.

Many Clinton residents were evacuated from their homes Saturday morning.

Shelters were made available but many people were likely to stay with relatives,

Hawkins said. "Some [residents] will not be able to get back in [their homes] for days," he said.

"People are pretty resilient up here," Hawkins said. However, this flooding is worse than he has seen in "many, many years ... This is an enormous amount of rain."

Arthur Foulkes can be reached at (812) 231-4232 or arthur.foulkes@tribstar.com.

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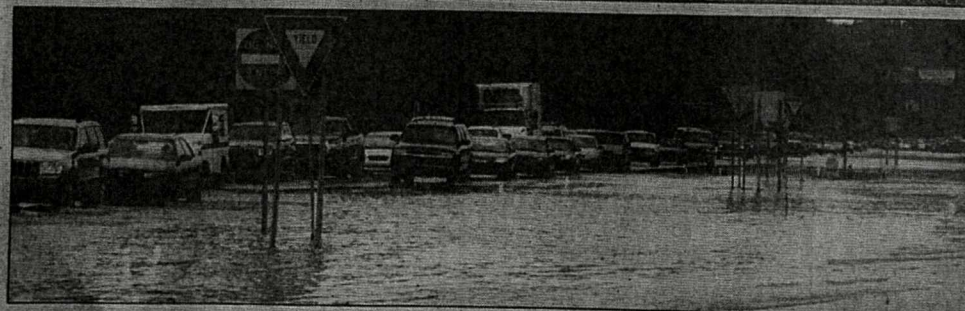
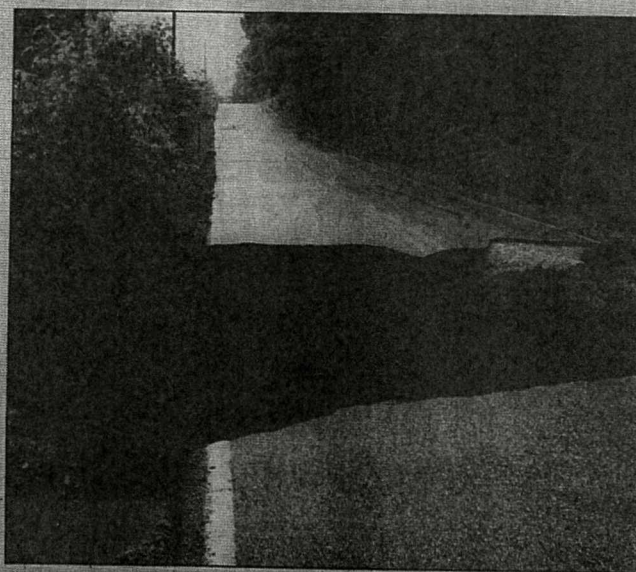
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LIFE UNDER WATER

Heavy rainfall left the Wabash Valley reeling Saturday, with widespread damage and flooding. At top, Terre Haute Fire Lt. Jason Kane carries Preston Dowell while his sister Shelby is carried by their dad, Steve. The Dowells' car became stalled in water crossing Indiana 46 just south of I-70 early Saturday morning. Above, a whirlpool formed when rainwaters coursed through a culvert under Indiana 46 near Moyer Road. The vortex was about 8 feet across. At right, a creek washed out a section of Woodsmall Road overnight Friday. A 15-foot-wide gap was made by the flash-floodwaters. At bottom, traffic flowing northbound along U.S. 41 near the Southwood subdivision are surrounded by water on all sides Saturday afternoon. Below, a flooded Honey Creek pulled down this maple tree Saturday morning, partially blocking Indiana 46 west of Riley.

*Tribune-Star photos by
Jim Avellis
and Bob Poynter*



Daniels declares emergencies in 10 counties

By TOM MURPHY
ASSOCIATED PRESS • Martinsville

Margaret Clemmons stood barefoot on the shoulder of a highway staring at her home surrounded by floodwaters.

Firefighters in a boat had just rescued the 79-year-old and her 82-year-old husband, Clyde. In her haste, she grabbed two left shoes, so she decided to go without them as she stood with her neighbors who also made it out safely.

"I believe it's going to call for new carpets," Margaret Clemmons said. "We're just glad nobody got hurt, really."

Gov. Mitch Daniels also said he was thankful that no serious injuries or deaths had been reported Saturday across south-central Indiana, where floodwaters forced countless residents from their homes, breached dams and closed portions of major highways.

"At this point, mercifully, we believe all Hoosiers are secure," Daniels said during a news conference. "We hope that will continue."

Daniels declared emergencies in 10 counties, after storms dumped up to 10 inches of rain on already soggy ground. He warned, though, that the state might have not seen the worst of the flooding because rivers continued to rise.

State Homeland Security Director Joe Wainscott said officials had no idea of the scope of evacuations, many by boat, but that at least several hundred homes and businesses were affected.

The Clemmons said before they were rescued, they dashed around their home trying to move clothing, shoes and valuables onto beds and dressers and out of the floodwaters' reach.

Between 75 and 100 people were taken from their area near Martinsville, about 30 miles southwest of Indianapolis, said White River Township Fire Department Lt. Tony Slusher.

"People didn't want to leave at first, but then they watched the water rise 2 to 3 feet in an hour and realized they needed to go," he said.

Damage was just as great in other areas. Ninety percent of the nearby small town of Paragon was underwater, Wainscott said. Flooding was extensive in Terre Haute, Spencer and other areas, he said.

Four to 10 inches of rain hit

areas south of Indianapolis overnight and Saturday, the National Weather Service said.

Weather Service hydrologist Al Shippe said flooding on the White River in some areas south of Indianapolis over the next two to three days could reach levels comparable to the historic flood of 1913. That flood killed 200 people statewide and displaced 200,000, according to the Indiana Historical Society's Web site.

The hardest hit areas in the next couple days could be Spencer or Martinsville, Shippe said.

In western Indiana, water more than a foot deep flowed quickly around houses in Terre Haute and other areas of Vigo County. Houses on the south side of the city resembled islands in the murky brown water that lapped against U.S. 41. The water submerged cars and left roads invisible.

J.D. Kesler, deputy director of the Vigo County Emergency Management Agency, said more than 200 people had to be rescued from their homes, vehicles and nursing homes after 6 to 9 inches of rain fell within 12 hours.

Peter Perdoux, 35, a mortgage broker from Terre Haute, heard a trickle Saturday morning and checked his daughter's basement room. The water had risen above the window.

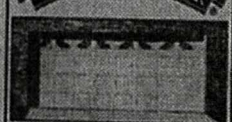
"It was almost like I was standing inside an aquarium," he said.

Within a few hours, sewage had started seeping into his home, and it wasn't long before the waters had filled his basement up to the 10-foot ceiling.

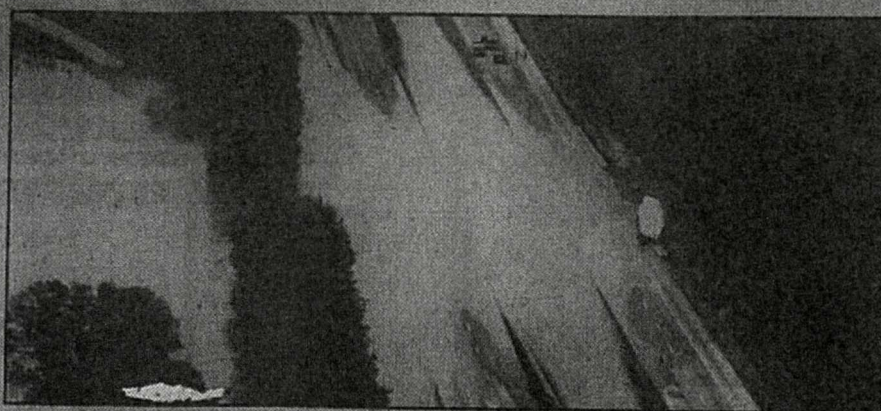
People also were evacuated in the Lake Lemon area about 10 miles northeast of Bloomington. Dams near Gold Point were close to collapse, police said. Interstate 70 was closed in Clay County in west-central Indiana, and Interstate 65 and another major route, U.S. 31, both were closed near Franklin.

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Looking down: Flood water overtook and shut down Interstate 70 in Putnam County Saturday afternoon.

AP/Mark Kruger, The Indianapolis Star, from WTHR Chapter 13

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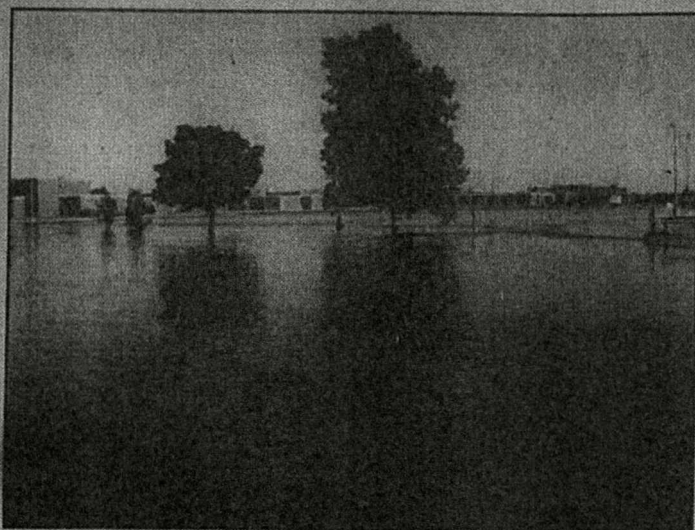
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Surrounded: Above, the entire lot around Terre Haute South is surrounded by rising waters Saturday afternoon. At left, a pickup truck drives through 3 feet of standing water in the parking lot of the school. The gym was being used as a shelter for displaced south-enders when rising waters forced about 40 people to be evacuated from there to other locations.
Tribune-Star/
Bobb Pfeiffer

Terre Haute receives nearly 7 inches of rain

TRIBUNE-STAR STAFF REPORT

Terre Haute received nearly 7 inches of rain on Saturday, leading to the current state of emergency in Vigo County and flash flooding throughout the area, according to the National Weather Service in Indianapolis.

The weather service reported that Terre Haute received 6.61 inches of rain in the 24 hours leading to 8 a.m. Saturday.

The city received another quarter of an inch after that, weather officials said.

Rainfall just northwest of Brazil reached 7.5 inches, said Chad Swain, a meteorologist with the National Weather Service in Indianapolis.

Parts of the state farther east, such as Morgan County and Johnson County in east central Indiana, received more than 9 inches, Swain said.

At WTWO-TV in Farmersburg, staff meteorologist Dan Reynolds said the 24-hour total there was 8.81 inches, a station record for a single day.

Reynolds also said the average rainfall there for June is 3.7 inches, but 13.75

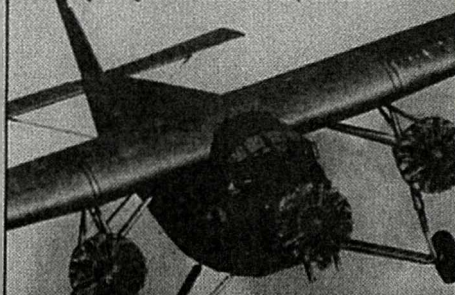
inches already have been recorded this month. The year to date average

should be 17.51 inches, but already is 38.14, Reynolds said.

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SERVING TERRE HAUTE AND THE WABASH VALLEY

\$06 NEWSSTAND

SALVAGE MISSION

STILL SUBMERGED TOAD HOP RESIDENTS
RECOVERING WHAT THEY CAN



Recover: Toad Hop residents use boats to recover items from their homes Sunday afternoon.

With houses
destroyed, future
uncertain for many

By BRIAN M. BOYCE
TRIBUNE-STAR

It was just a breeze shy of 90 degrees Sunday afternoon in Toad Hop — and the bitter smell of gasoline in muddy water tickled the nose.

Much of the small town off Darwin Road and U.S. 40 still laid under water, with residents hauling what possessions they had left to dry land by boat.

"We saw a rat this big floating around in it," said Charity Riggs, spreading her hands out wide and describing the difficulty in keeping small kids out of the water which topped houses and vehicles at various points.

► Turn to **SALVAGE, A7**



Water woes: Toad Hop residents use boats to bring out items from their homes Sunday afternoon.



Tribune-Star/Rob Poynter

Tour: Gov. Mitch Daniels talks with media Sunday afternoon after meeting with Emergency Management officials in Terre Haute. He's touring flood-damaged areas around the state. The State Police helicopter landed at the Union Hospital heliport, then Daniels traveled in a State Police vehicle to various sites.

Daniels arrives to survey damage

By BRIAN M. BOYCE
TRIBUNE-STAR

INSIDE

■ An update on Valley road closings, A3

■ Creatures great and small affected by flood, A3

With pounding rains bringing water levels to disastrous heights in some areas of the Wabash Valley on Friday and Saturday, state and local officials were still on the scene Sunday morning working to restore order.

And while all involved acknowledged the damage done, they were quick to point out the tenacity of those who survived a storm in which relatively few injuries occurred.

"It was pretty awesome, first the power of Mother Nature and second how people can come together," Gov. Mitch

Daniels said in front of the Indiana State Police helicopter which flew him into Terre Haute about 11:55 a.m. Sunday morning.

Daniels came to visit the residents at Terre Haute North Vigo High School's shelter, as well as meet with Emergency Management officials to get aid requests prepared Sunday morning.

► Turn to **DANIELS, A7**

Dozens remain in shelter after being forced from homes

By ARTHUR E. FOULKES
TRIBUNE-STAR

Several dozen Wabash Valley residents left homeless by Saturday's flash flooding remained Sunday at a Red Cross emergency shelter at Terre Haute North Vigo High School.

Between 35 and 40 people were using the shelter as of Sunday night, said Bonnie Lu, director of emergency services for the Wabash Valley Red Cross.

Around 20 residents of Bethesda Gardens, a retirement community evacuated because of the flooding, were dispersed to other locations after using the shelter Saturday night, Lu said.

► Turn to **SHELTER, A6**



Tribune-Star/Rob Poynter

Resting: Seven-month-old Barbara Vearo sleeps Sunday afternoon on the floor in a hallway of Terre Haute North Vigo High School. She and her family were displaced by high waters surrounding their North Terre Haute home.

National Guard stockpiles sandbags to help Wabash Valley

About 12,000 bags
waiting to be placed

By BRIAN M. BOYCE
TRIBUNE-STAR

As rescue boats were patrolling the neighborhoods of Terre Haute Saturday night, servicemen and women were hard at work filling sandbags.

"There's plenty of places to use them," Lt. Randi Brown of the 181st Intelligence Wing of the Indiana Air National Guard

said, pointing to about 12,000 40-pound sandbags stacked on pallets at the air base.

The Air Guard teamed up with the 519th Combat Support/Sustainment Battalion of the Army National Guard and even called in some inmates from the Wabash Valley Correctional Facility at Carlisle to begin the process at about 8:30 Saturday night.

A relief crew was called in at 3 a.m. Sunday and the loads were finished by that afternoon.

"We're just waiting on dispo-

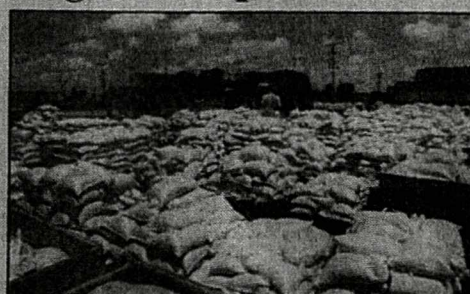
sition now," she said.

Between 350 and 400 workers loaded the bags and semi-trucks were beginning to haul them out by 3 p.m. Sunday.

"We've been really fortunate here," Brown said. "The Wabash Valley has been really supportive of the 181st."

This happened to have been a regular drill weekend for the reservists and guardsmen, and Brown said the volunteer effort was well-received by the troops.

Brian Boyce can be reached at (812) 251-4255 or brian.boyce@tribstar.com.



Sand bags: Approximately 12,000 sand bags were filled at Hulman Field on Saturday night and Sunday afternoon by military personnel and inmates from the Wabash Valley Correctional Facility.

Tribune-Star/
Rob Poynter

Daniels: EMA director warns against driving through water

► Continued from A1

"I'm very, very proud," he said, commenting on "how tough they are" when speaking of those whose homes and property were destroyed.

The first step, he said, is to get people back into their homes and salvage as much property as they can, and then begin preparations for cash assistance as well as low interest loans.

But Sunday morning, the things on emergency workers' minds were water pollution and contamination, as well as security for the abandoned homes and their contents.

"Right now we need more pumps," he said.

Back at the Emergency Management Office at Fourth Street and Farrington Avenue, EMA director Dorene Hojnacki said "we're finally getting our hands around some stuff" after meeting with Daniels.

Hojnacki and others had been working almost non stop since the rains began late Friday night.

Workers and volunteers were in the facility making calls and coordinating efforts between law enforcement and relief agencies, with several large boards noting goals of the day, week and long-term.

Sunday's goals included assessing houses and roads for re entry, moving people in and out to recover what they could, updating the hospitals on medical needs, and removing the litter of dead animals strewn throughout the Wabash Valley.

Water quality and contamination was high on the minds of all involved.

Wanda Copeland was one of many Terre Haute residents who came to the office looking for help.

The owner of a house at 925 Sunset Pike said Sunday at about noon "I was just down there this morning and I can't drive around the street through all this water."

Copeland spent the night at her 96-year-old father's home, but said "I didn't bring my medicine with me," and said she needed a boat to get into the house to get that and other necessities.

"I saw my neighbors taken out in boats," she said as state police began making arrangements for her return.

Daniels said prevention is not always an option in cases



Salvage Star/John Poyner

Police presence: EMA director Dorene Hojnacki and Indiana State Police Sgt. David Edward coordinate efforts to put police in areas where needed to prevent possible looting of abandoned homes because of high water.

such as this weekend.

"I'm not sure there's anything you can do to avoid a 100-year water event," he said, but Indiana's nationally recognized emergency response system, coupled with strong communities, prevented the situation from becoming more tragic than it was.

"We're blessed with one of the biggest National Guards in America," Daniels said, noting that even with more than 4,000 troops overseas, Indiana still has more in state than many others.

"You can draw a line from the south side of Indianapolis down to Bloomington and then to here," he said, describing a triangle to which as many as 10 inches of water fell

overnight in some areas.

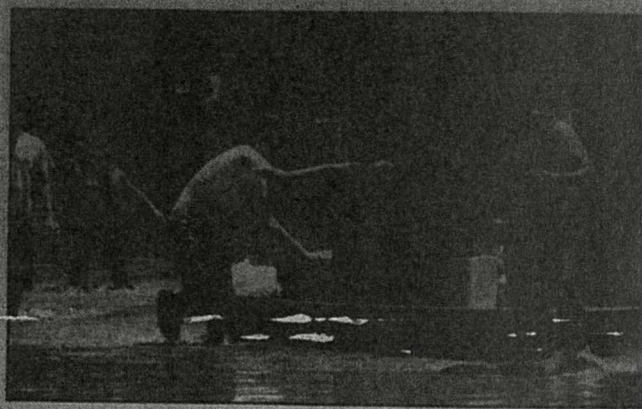
Daniels had been to Martinsville earlier where one boy told him about being rescued from his rooftop by boat, and laughed as he described his grandmother being rescued from her's on a jelski.

"Folks are so brave, and so resourceful, and so compassionate," he said.

Hojnacki reminded the public that driving through standing water is still dangerous, and cautioned drivers about the softening effects the water have had on many county roads.

"We don't want to have to re-rescue people," she said.

Brian Boyce can be reached at (812) 231-4253 or brian.boyce@tribstar.com.



Tribune-Star/John Poyner

Big screen: Toad Hop residents use a boat to bring a big-screen television to dry land Sunday afternoon.

Salvage: Sandbagging WTH may have hurt Toad Hop

► Continued from A1

On Friday, Riggs and her husband, Derek, lived at 655 S. Vicksburg Place with their three children, but as they teamed up with their neighbors to boat about the flooded houses, no one knew for sure what the future would bring.

"No one helped us yesterday," Riggs said with some emotion, stating that no rescue crews or emergency personnel came down off Darwin Road as waters climbed higher during the day.

And it was not lost upon her, or anyone else sweating about the Country Kitchen's parking lot, that Saturday's stand of sandbaggers along U.S. 40 might well have saved West Terre Haute from Sugar Creek's waters, but in doing so

it backed those very same waters up into Toad Hop, leaving the town in a still undrained pool Sunday evening.

"I'm 69 years old and I've never seen this much rain," said Jerry Lyon into the small waves of brown riding up toward his feet.

Lyon's daughter's house at 2912 W. Sassis Drive was still under four feet of water Sunday afternoon, and their family was hauling everything they could out by the bonload and into his truck.

Her house is completely ruined, he said.

"Hell, you'd have to give it away now," he said when asked what kind of value could be recouped.

Riggs said she was sup-

posed to have worked Sunday at West Terre Haute's Dollar Store, but she literally had only the clothes she was wearing left.

"A woman at the Wal-Mart in Marshall felt so bad she gave us \$25," Riggs said, noting that all of their food and appliances have been destroyed.

Medicine and prescription orders likewise were all contaminated by the soiled waters.

And flood insurance, which costs as much as \$1,600 per year, was always out of their financial reach, Riggs said. "Just the contents," she said of what was insured.

Brian Boyce can be reached at (812) 231-4253 or brian.boyce@tribstar.com.



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Westbound I-70 closed again

TRIBUNE-STAR STAFF REPORT

After being briefly reopened for traffic, authorities once again closed Interstate 70, westbound near Terre Haute on Sunday evening.

The westbound lane of I-70 had to be closed again Sunday around 6 p.m.

because emergency repairs made after the weekend's flooding did not hold, according to Indiana State Police Sgt. Joe Watts.

Repairs are scheduled to begin again on Monday, Watts said.

I-70 westbound was closed near Terre Haute on Saturday after intense rain and flash flooding. The highway is damaged around the 30 mile marker.



Tribune-Star/Bob Poynter

Sleeping: Fifteen-year-old Rochelle Vearo comforts her baby sister in the hallway of North High School Sunday afternoon. They were displaced from their North Terre Haute home because of high water.

Shelter: 'We don't know how long we'll be here'

► Continued from A1

The Wabash Valley Chapter of the American Red Cross opened a "welcome center" at North Vigo on Saturday shortly after the flooding caused hundreds of area residents to leave their homes. The "welcome center" became an official emergency shelter later Saturday.

"We don't know how long we'll be here," said Melissa Vearo, 34, of north Terre Haute. Vearo and her young children, ages 14, 8 and 7-months, were forced from their mobile home near Park Avenue because of the flooding. They brought what they could carry to the shelter after spending Saturday night with family, Vearo said.

Vearo's 7-month old baby, Barbara Marie, slept on a thin mattress on the floor of a hall of North Vigo. 8-year

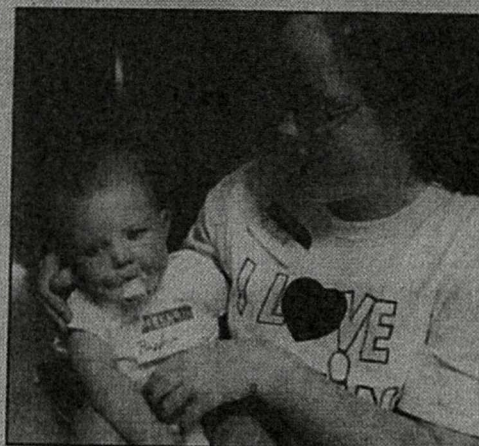
old Brittany slept on a nearby Red Cross cot and 15-year old Rochelle, who is celebrating her birthday today, sat nearby.

Melissa Vearo said she does not expect to take her family back to their mobile home. "This could happen again," she said.

Meanwhile, another resident at the temporary shelter, Richard Campbell, said he and other people who lost their homes at International Village apartments will likely need to find new places to live. "It's going to be difficult," he said.

Anyone wishing to make donations to the Wabash Valley Red Cross can call (812) 252-3393 or toll free 1-866-932-3393.

Arthur Foulkes can be reached at (812) 231-4232 or arthur.foulkes@tribstar.com.



Tribune-Star/Bob Poynter

Sheltered: Seven-month-old Barbara Vearo and her sister Rochelle sit in the hallway near the cafeteria of Terre Haute North Vigo High School on Sunday afternoon. They were displaced from their North Terre Haute home because of high water.

HARBORSIDE RESIDENTS EVACUATED

Locations where Harborside Healthcare-Terre Haute Rehabilitation and Nursing Center residents were evacuated:

Residents Evacuated to Holly Hill Healthcare

Thompson, Susan
Kellar, Brenda
Jones, Katherine
Gambill, Darunda
Pierce, Carolyn
Davis, William
Johnson, Minnie
Gerhardt, Elizabeth
Fortin, Verna
Osborne, Mary
Baker, James
Seeling, Harold
McCammack, Ron
Whitlock, William
Roe, Bill
Lynch, Larry
Reynolds, John
Conroy, Raymond
Sullivan, Honey
Williams, Ethel
Abbott, Betty
Brandenburg, Frank
VanHorn, Donnie
Davis, Nelda
Wernz, Charles
Warren, Marty

Residents Evacuated To Cloverleaf

Fritchie, Danny
Sartain, Pauline
Madden, Mary
Crist, Marjorie
Conley, Mary
Jack, Olga
Black, Pat
Tetrick, Ronald
Whitaker, Dale

Residents Evacuated to Terre Haute Nursing Center

Goad, Darryl
Wilkey, William
Schofield, Helen
Snow, Betty
McPherson, Reba
Lumaye, Melvin
Hollingsed, Dorothy

Residents Evacuated to Clay County Health Center

Kozik, Wanda
Sheese, William
Hicks, Thomas
Maloney, Leon
Moore, Joseph
Mullen, George
Boling, Robert
Stockrahm, Joan

Brentlinger, Dorothy

Hall, Janet
Nolan, Mary
Lee, William
Wood, Carol
Gomoliski, Robert
Matherly, Nellie
Wooters, Marietta

Residents Evacuated to Royal Oaks

Fagg, Francis
Kvies, William
Thomas, Virginia
Boyle, Ada
O'Neill, Isabel
Casteel, Ruth
Trueblood, Betty
Blair, Rosetta
Russi, Bess
Heiler, Wanda
Penick, Harold
Manuel, Robert
Hulet, Meredith
Hulet, Alvina
Hoopingamer, Bernice
Prichard, Margaret
Frakes, Eddie
Sprague, Kenneth
Geary, Edna
Hoff, Mary
Beatty, Earl
Wright, Barbara

Residents Evacuated to Southwood Healthcare

McGregor, Martha
Fields, Majorie
McKinney, Janet
Kuhn, Ruth
Fuqua, Betty
Harris, Geraldine
Lents, Gertrude
Moseman, Goldie
Morse, Jonnie
Smith, Nancy
Zaayer, Louella
Buskirk, Susan
Rottman, Helen
Fagg, Rita

Residents with families:

Ashley, Victor
Fields, Ruth
Mitchell, Marzella
McNeil, Mildred
Butler, Mable

Residents Evacuated to Regional Hospital

Maesch, Charles

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held at Wayne Newton Post 346 with a

he was preceded in death by his grandfather, Chester Bays Sr.; and

Wayne Garrison; a brother, James Zenko; and a nephew, David Gonzales.

Tuesday Rieth-Rohrer-Ehret Funeral Home, Goshen.

Trib
June 9, 2008
pg. A2

FLOOD OF 2008

Many stepping up to help flood victims

BY ARTHUR E. FOULKES
TRIBUNE-STAR

Individually and in groups, many Wabash Valley residents are reaching out to help their neighbors harmed by the weekend's flash flooding.

In addition to legions of sandbaggers and volunteer rescue workers, several other people are now stepping up and finding ways to help those who suffered losses from the flooding.

"We all need to pull ourselves up from the bootstraps and help each other out," said Jenna Stipanovic, 25, who was volunteering Sunday at the Vigo County Emergency Management Agency.

Stipanovic went to several places in Terre-Haute on Sunday looking to help. She finally was given a chance to help answer telephones at the EMA.

"I can't even tell you how many places I went to try and find somewhere to help. [The EMA officials] gave me a phone and said, 'sit down,'" she said.

Meanwhile, area churches are swinging into action as well.

Members of Maryland Community Church on U.S. 46 east of Terre Haute are manning telephones today taking calls from people who need help and want to give help, said pastor Vince McFarland. The goal is to match those wanting to help with those who need it, he said. "The main part is just getting the information," he said.

The church is encouraging people needing help to call (812) 234-7100 after 9 a.m. today. That is the same number people should call who want to find a way to help, McFarland said, adding most of the help provided will be human labor.

Tearing up carpets, draining basements and hauling things out of homes will likely make up most of the assistance, McFarland said. "I think that's going to be a lot of the major kinds of things we're going to need to do," he said.

"There is a need out there," said Rick Ginther, pastor of St. Margaret Mary and St. Patrick churches in Terre Haute. Ginther said he encouraged parishioners of his churches Saturday and

Sunday to inform church leaders of any parishioners needing help after the flooding.

"Maybe they don't have flood insurance. This has been so overwhelming we're just kind of stepping back and saying, 'let's assess the situation and see what we can do,'" Ginther said.

Several members of both churches have been affected by the flooding, Ginther and McFarland said.

Terre Haute, the Wabash Valley and other parts of Indiana were hit by wide spread flash flooding Saturday. The flooding damaged farm land, homes and closed roads all across western and central Indiana. In Terre Haute, hundreds of people were forced to evacuate their homes or apartments due to fast rising water.

"I'm at as good of a place as I can be," said Stipanovic of her volunteer work Sunday. "I'm just kind of young and ambitious and not quite crushed by the world yet. And it makes me happy."

Arthur Foulkes can be reached at (812) 231-4232 or arthur.foulkes@tribstar.com.

1 dead, 1 missing in Indiana flooding

BY TOM MURPHY

ASSOCIATED PRESS • Indianapolis

Flash floods that hit south-central Indiana left residents wondering how they were going clean up the mess, even as those farther south braced for new flooding brought by floodwaters rushing toward the Ohio River.

Rescuers in boats were still plucking people from rising waters Sunday in flooding that caused at least one death. As much as 11 inches of rain swamped the state Saturday, flooding homes, threatening dams and closing several roads and highways.


Saturday's flooding killed at least one person, a man who drowned in his vehicle in Bartholomew County about 50 miles south of Indianapolis, said John Erickson, a spokesman for the Indiana Department of Homeland Security.

Another person was reported missing after falling off a boat on Mill Creek near the town of Little Point about 30 miles southwest of Indianapolis.

Meanwhile, Gov. Mitch Daniels declared another 13 counties as disaster areas Sunday, boosting the total so far to 23 of Indiana's 92 counties with disaster declarations.

Shelters have been set up in almost every flooded county, housing at least 1,200 people overnight, said Homeland Security, which had no estimate on how many people were forced to leave their homes.

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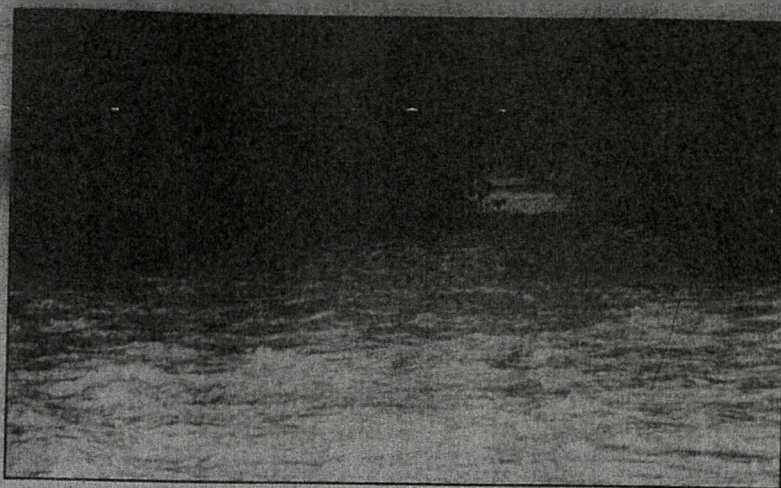


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Monday, June 9, 2008

News tip? Story idea? Contact Assistant Editor Susan Duncan, (317) 231-4333 or

FLOOD OF 2008



Tribune-Star/Sheila Ter Meer

Battling: James Lohrman works to break down a fence and loosen debris so floodwaters would leave his low-lying backyard. The Lohrmans have lived there for about three years and he was told the last big flash flood through this area was back in 1993.

Creatures great and small affected by flood

By SHEILA K. TER MEER
TRIBUNE-STAR

It was nothing so heroic as the efforts Saturday morning by those who helped flash-flood victims in other Wabash Valley counties, but after the high water receded in downtown Brazil, I thought to myself, "I did help bring a tiny ray of sunshine into a few lives today."

After foraging small rivers over the Clay County road I live on, my SUV made it to town for my usual bank business.

Many low areas into town were reported under water and drivers not so lucky as I had to play a game of Pac-Man, turning along several county and city streets before making their job or other destination. Those hoping to shop at Kroger found it closed because of high water through its doors. Sections of Indiana 59 South, South Alabama Street, North and South Lambert Street, Short Street, Jackson Street, South Walnut Street and others were impassable.

As I pulled out of the bank parking lot, I noticed one of God's tiny creatures creeping low to the ground alongside a building on U.S. 40 searching for a shelter.



Tribune-Star/Sheila Ter Meer

New friend: Tribune-Star staffer Sheila Ter Meer's daughter, Mabry, holds a kitten rescued from the flood.

ter in the storm.

The next thing I knew, I was blocking two lanes of traffic and crawling on my hands and knees beneath the front tire of a pickup truck to pull a trembling

black and white cat that resembled a "drenched rat" from eminent danger.

Barely weaned, only God knows how she managed to survive the floodwaters and the city traffic before I swooped her up into my arms.

Just a kitten, but one of God's many creatures that found itself lost or worse in the floodwaters.

I was unaware of what the drivers were saying under their breath about this crazy woman going to all that trouble to save a "cat," until I looked up to smile and an approving gesture from a woman waiting in backed-up traffic.

I took "Crazy Eighthall" (now with only eight lives) home to the loving arms of my 10-year-old daughter, Mabry, and went back to town with a camera to document some of the devastation I had just witnessed in town.

I felt so helpless as I waded in water over my knees to photograph flooded homes and cars for possible use in this newspaper. So I hurried home to cuddle our adopted ball of fur, praying to God for no loss of human life in what may be the worst flash flooding in Brazil and the Wabash Valley in many years.

UPDATE ON ROAD CLOSURES IN TERRE HAUTE DISTRICT

Vigo County

- Indiana 63 between Prairie Creek and Prairieton
- Indiana 246 between U.S. 41 and Lewis
- Indiana 159 at Blackhawk
- U.S. 40 west of West Terre Haute

- Massive traffic delays on U.S. 40 as result of detours
- Eastbound I-70 open

Clay County

- Indiana 42 west of Indiana 59 and west of Poland
- Indiana 46 at Bowling Green

- Indiana 246 at Eel River Bridge
- Indiana 59 South of Clay City at Eel River Bridge

- Heavy traffic and delays on U.S. 40 from I-70 detours

Vermillion County

- Indiana 63 at Brouillets

Creek open, but debris clean-up under way, use caution

- Indiana 163 west of Centenary at Iron Bridge
- Indiana 71 at St. Bernice

Parke County

- Indiana 236 at Putnam County Line

Many Wabash Valley residents still without power

TRIBUNE-STAR STAFF REPORT

More than a thousand Vigo County homes remained without electricity Sunday evening, although several thousand people who lost power in the weekend's flooding have power service once again.

According to Duke Energy, more than 6,600 Vigo County customers lost power during the weekend, which saw widespread flash flooding and nearly 7 inches of rain fall in Terre Haute in a 24-hour period.

By Sunday evening, the number of Duke customers without power was down to 1,032, according to the company's Web site.

Thousands of Wabash Valley Duke Energy customers lost power during Saturday's heavy rain and flash flooding. More than 4,100 lost power in Clay County, nearly 2,000 in Sullivan County, around 1,200 in Parke County, and nearly 5,000 in both Greene and Vermillion counties.

According to the company's Web site, Morgan County, southwest of Indianapolis, had the most Duke Energy customers without power over the weekend. More than 7,300 in Morgan County lost power. By Sunday evening, there were still 1,974 customers without power in Morgan County.

Meanwhile, natural gas service also has been a casualty from the weekend's flooding. By Sunday afternoon, about 900 Vectren Energy Delivery customers were without service in the Wabash Valley, according to a company media statement.

That number could increase if waters rise further, the media statement said.

Areas affected by loss of gas service Sunday included Clinton, Spring Hill, St. Bernice and Toad Hop, among other places, the media statement said.

Vectren vice president Rick Schach asked customers to be patient and noted that repair work cannot begin until flood waters recede.

"For some customers, service restoration may take more

time and be more labor intensive, and we want customers to understand that we're dealing with a lot of obstacles, beyond just high water," Schach said in the media release. Service for some customers may not be restored until the end of the week or later, he said.

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50¢ NEWSSTAND



Roadways hit hard by storms — C1



Work continues in Toad Hop — A3

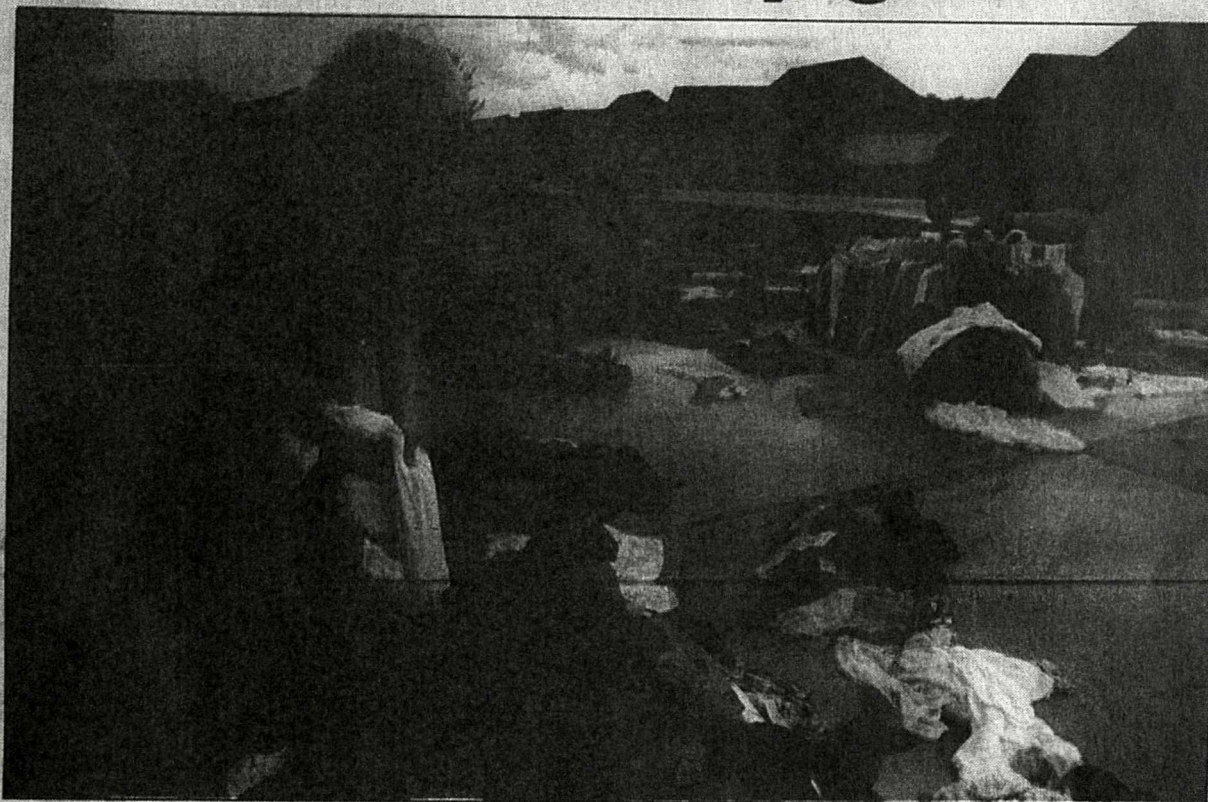


State seeing record flooding — A4



Bush declares disaster areas — A4

Indiana's misery goes on



Tribune-Star photos/Joseph C. Carr

Trying to dry: Onalee Myles looks through her soaked articles of clothing Monday at her home in Oakridge Park subdivision. Myles tried to dry the pieces of clothing in Monday's sun after they were soaked by flooding in her house, but her efforts were ruined by more rain later in the afternoon. Bernie Myles removes a clock from his basement Monday in Oakridge subdivision with some flashlight help from Tim Fields (right).

Residents prepare as more inclement weather rolls through Valley

By SUE LOUGHLIN
TRIBUNE STAR

Vigo County residents devastated by weekend flooding continued cleanup efforts Monday, as emergency management officials closely monitored forecasts of an additional 1 to 3 inches of rain.

"Our concern is the weather that's coming in," said Dr.

Dorene Hofnickl, director of Vigo County Emergency Management, on Monday afternoon.

By midafternoon, a thunderstorm brought another 1/4 inch of rain, with up to 3 inches forecast through the night — bringing with it the possibility of more flash flooding, she said.

► Turn to OVERVIEW, A5



Like many on south side, Oakridge Park residents sifting through possessions

By ARTHUR E. FOULKES
TRIBUNE STAR

Onalee Myles moved to Oakridge Park subdivision south of Terre Haute around two years ago because she was tired of paying flood insurance at her former residence in Willa Villa, she said.

Then came widespread flash flooding this past weekend and

much of her new neighborhood found itself underwater.

"We lost everything" in our basement, Myles said, while she watched rain soak the clothing she had been trying to dry on her front lawn. The basement had contained family heirlooms and photographs, she said. It was all ruined, she said.

► Turn to OAKRIDGE, A5

Wet beginning: Sarah and Amy Dix remove flooded items from the apartment of Jerry and Kelsey Cooney, who were married Saturday afternoon. The couple returned from their wedding ceremony to find their apartment underwater.

Tribune-Star/Rob Poyner



Couple wedded, flooded on Saturday

Newlyweds' International Village apartment floods during ceremony

By SUE LOUGHLIN
TRIBUNE STAR

As Jerry Cooney and Kelsey Dix were getting married Saturday, their International Village apartment

filled with water, destroying newly bought furniture and other personal belongings — including those they planned to take on their honeymoon.

The newlyweds did not want to go on their honeymoon to Gatlinburg, Tenn., but family members persuaded them to go. All they took with them was one

change of clothes, shorts and shirts.

"We told them to go, try and relax and have as much fun as they could and that we would take care of it for them," said Sarah Dix, Dix's older sister.

On Monday, Sarah Dix, her mother, Julie Dix, and other family members and

friends gathered at the apartment to clean up the mess left by the devastating flood. Furniture and other items were piled in front of the apartment — a scene repeated many times over at the apartment complex off South Seventh Street.

► Turn to NEWLYWEDS, A4

Overview: 2,000 Vigo residents evacuated through weekend

► Continued from A1

To prepare, officials placed sandbags and sand in three areas, available to anyone who needed them: Otter Creek Middle School, Darwin Road and Old U.S. 40; and a former church site across from Terre Haute Regional Hospital.

Also, repair work was under way on part of the Honey Creek levee that was starting to erode, Hohnicki said.

On Monday, waters continued to recede, and only one water evacuation occurred during the day, Hohnicki said.

"We have a lot of requests for FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency) assistance, which is not available as of yet," she said.

Early Monday, President Bush declared nearly one-third of Indiana counties - including Vigo - as federal disaster areas, paving the way for federal assistance eventually to become available.

State officials are still completing a damage assessment.

Terre Haute North Vigo High School remains open as a shelter, and the Vigo County School Corp. placed a school bus on standby Monday evening in the event another evacuation became necessary because of additional rain.

Dan Tanous, Vigo County School Corp. superintendent, said all school-related classes and activities are canceled today.

The only school facility with significant flood-related problems is Otter Creek Middle School. "We're still pumping water out of the Otter Creek Middle School basement," which at one point had 10 feet of water, Tanous said.

The Department of Homeland Security reported that through the weekend, 2,000 Vigo County residents had been evacuated by boat. Indiana State Police were deploying personnel to Vigo County to support local law enforcement.

Indiana Department of Natural Resources conservation officers also assisted in flood rescue and evacuation efforts over the weekend in areas from Terre Haute east to Columbus.

The National Guard is continuing to work with Vigo County Emergency Management Office to determine its needs. The Guard has moved 25 soldiers to assist local law enforcement with presence patrols, according to a release from Indiana's Department of Homeland Security.

State Police, other law enforcement and members of the National Guard have assisted with security at some of the devastated areas because of concerns about possible looting.

Joe Watts, public information officer for Indiana State Police, said that agency has had patrols at Harborside.

Oakridge: 'The water came so fast'

► Continued from A1

On Monday, floodwaters remained in large ponds throughout Oakridge Park, leaving many roads impassable. Residents stood in small groups around the neighborhood, surrounded by piles of ruined belongings. Oakridge Park is on Indiana 63, south of Flynn Drive in southern Vigo County.

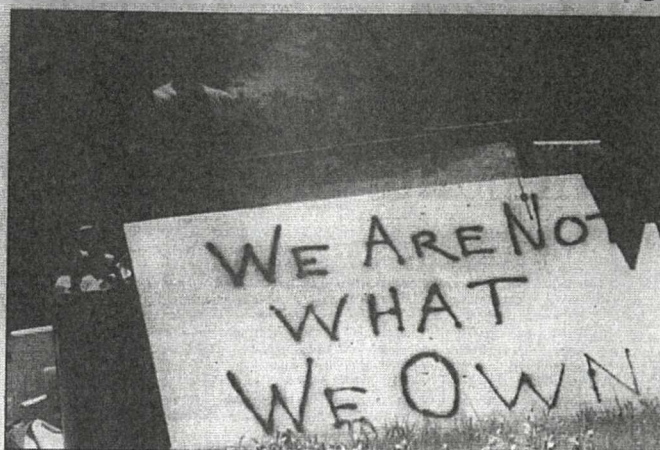
The ground around the Myles home is saturated. Bernie Myles said. No floodwater reached the outside of their home; rather, it seemed to seep into the basement through the walls and floor, he said.

"The water came so fast and furious the sump pump couldn't handle it," Onalee said.

Through all the flooding and rain, the Myles home never lost power, Onalee said, adding that she knows many other homes suffered much worse flood damage. In some parts of Oakridge Park, the floodwaters reached the top of real estate "for sale" signs in the yards, she said.

"I've sold houses with indoor pools," she said with a laugh. "But I didn't think I'd own one."

Arthur Foulkes can be reached at (812) 231-4232 or arthur.foulkes@tribstar.com.



Message: Marywood subdivision resident Brent Silver tosses an item into a trash can as he sifts through a pile of soaked belongings on Monday afternoon.

Healthcare, Marywood subdivision and the area near Park and Lafayette avenues. "We've not made any looting or theft arrests," Watts said.

The agency has received sporadic reports of looting, but when officers get to the scene they have not found any suspicious activity.

Carol Stevens, executive director of the Wabash Valley

Red Cross, said about 20 people stayed at the Terre Haute North shelter Sunday night. Some people are stopping at a meal, but not staying all night.

The Red Cross also has been taking snacks and bottled water to areas where cleanup efforts are under way - on Sunday at Robinwood and Phoenix Hills subdivisions,

and on Monday at International Village apartments, West Terre Haute and North Terre Haute.

The Red Cross also has given out about 75 cleaning kits and has an additional 500 on order. The kits include a bucket, mops, sponges, disinfectants and other cleaning supplies. More will be ordered as long as they are needed.

Stevens said.

Because the devastation is so widespread and in so many counties that it serves, the Wabash Valley chapter has requested help from other Red Cross resources. "We do have additional personnel and vehicles coming in so we can do more outreach in neighborhoods," Stevens said. That extra help should be here by

Wednesday.

The additional people will help the Wabash Valley chapter do damage assessment and increase mass feeding in affected neighborhoods.

The Wabash Valley Chapter also will be able to open service centers so case workers can sit down with individual families and provide them with assistance for such things as food, clothing, personal hygiene items, critical medications and clean-up. "The amount of assistance varies depending on need and family size."

"We hope to start that in the next few days," Stevens said. Red Cross assists families with immediate emergency needs, while FEMA resources help families with longer-term recovery.

Stevens, who was born and raised in Terre Haute, said the weekend rain and flooding has caused the worst disaster that she can remember.

"This is the biggest operation we've had here at the Red Cross since the flooding of 1993, and this will far surpass that because so many more homes are affected and they are spread out over such a large area," she said.

Those who would like to donate money to assist with the flood response can send those donations to American Red Cross Wabash Valley Chapter, 700 S. Third St., 47807, or go to www.wabashvalleyredcross.org.

Sue Loughlin can be reached at (812) 231-4235 or sueloughlin@tribstar.com.

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Flooding breaks records set in 1913 flood

By Rick Callahan
Associated Press • Indianapolis

Flooding that's swamped cities across central and southern Indiana is breaking records set during the state's most devastating flood in modern times — a deluge that became known as The Great Flood of 1913.

That March 1913 flood inundated dozens of Indiana communities along the state's major rivers, causing widespread destruction. Floodwaters even swamped parts of Indianapolis, destroying buildings over the White River and homes in some of the capital city's neighborhoods.

Nearly a century later, the highest notch on many of Indiana's flood markers remain those set by that "landmark" flood, said Scott Morlock, a hydrologist with the U.S. Geological Survey in Indiana.

But the latest wave of flooding had already set eight new flood depth or water volume

INDIANA PRONE TO FLOODING

Indiana is prone to flooding because cold northern air masses and warm, humid Gulf Coast air often clash over the state. In the winter and early spring, this can produce long rain events and flooding. In the summer, severe thunderstorms can bring heavy rains and flash flooding.

The following is a summary of some of Indiana's biggest floods:

August 1875 — Widespread flooding in what's deemed Indiana's worst 19th-century flood.

March 1913 — Widespread flood damage in dozens of cities, including Indianapolis, in what's considered the "landmark" flood for most major rivers in Indiana.

January 1937 — The biggest flood to ever strike the Ohio River inundated cities and towns throughout southern Indiana, both on the Ohio River and its tributaries.

March 1942 — Northern Indiana flooding brings national attention to Fort Wayne, where President Reagan helped in sandbagging efforts.

January 1991 — Snow melt and heavy rains cause severe flooding across southern Indiana.

January 2005 — Flooding in central and southern Indiana reach their highest levels in more than 90 years in some locations.

— Source: National Weather Service

records by Monday. Of particular interest to emergency management officials Monday was a record flood level set on the White River at Newberry about 100 miles southwest of Indianapolis.

That site is just north of Ellettsville, where Indiana National Guardsmen and Marines were sandbagging to protect homes

and businesses against rising floodwaters.

At Newberry, the White River rose to 28.04 feet on Monday morning — a level about 15 feet above flood stage that tops the previous record of 27.50 feet set in 1913.

Morlock said about 748,000 gallons of water were rushing by that point each second Mon-

ON THE NET:

Real-time flooding data:
waterdata.usgs.gov/ri/mw/r/

day as runoff from Saturday's 10-inch rainfall continued pushing downstream.

"Obviously this is a major flood, a record flood," he said.

Even at those sites where flooding hasn't eclipsed records set in 1913, Morlock said the current flooding ranks along with other flood years in 1937, 1982, 1991 and 2005.

He said the Geological Survey monitors the state's rivers with 175 solar-powered water gauges that transmit data in real-time to give forecasters the latest changes in the rivers.

Those readings are made every 15 minutes and transmitted once an hour to help National Weather Service forecasters decide where and when to issue flood warnings, he said.



Car or boat? A truck driver makes it through some deep water, passing a stranded car on Fairview Road in Greenwood just west of Indiana 135 on Saturday.

Bush declares 29 Indiana counties disaster areas

By Ken Kusmer
Associated Press • Indianapolis

President Bush declared nearly a third of Indiana's counties disaster areas amid record flooding while Marines and National Guard troops piled sandbags in a desperate attempt to protect the southern Indiana community of Ellettsville Monday.

The flooding killed at least two people, including a boater missing since Saturday. The body of Mark Stroud, 44, of Coatsville, was recovered in Mill Creek Monday about 30 miles southwest of Indianapolis, said Phil Bloom, a spokesman for the Indiana Department of Natural Resources.

The destruction in much of the southern half of the state led Bush to order federal aid to supplement state and local funds to 29 counties. As much as 11 inches of rain swamped the state over the weekend, flooding homes, threatening dams and closing several roads and highways. Floodwaters pushed farther south across Indiana on Monday, and the state prepared for more rain.

The National Weather Service said a new storm system could drop from 1 to 3 inches of rain on the state late Monday.

A U.S. Coast Guard helicopter, meanwhile, rescued six campers — including three young children — who had been stranded about 40 miles southwest of Indianapolis. An earlier rescue attempt by state conser-

vation officers was called off because of rugged terrain.

The helicopter was unable to land Sunday night, but its crew hauled the trapped campers to safety in a rescue basket — four in the first lift and then the other two, said John Erickson, a spokesman for the Indiana Department of Homeland Security.

He said the campers — three adults, an infant and two children — were on a weekend trip in the Owen Putnam State Forest when they were trapped by the flash flooding and mudslides. It took crews the whole day to reach them after the first call, he said.

"They were running out of food and water and asked to be rescued," Erickson said.

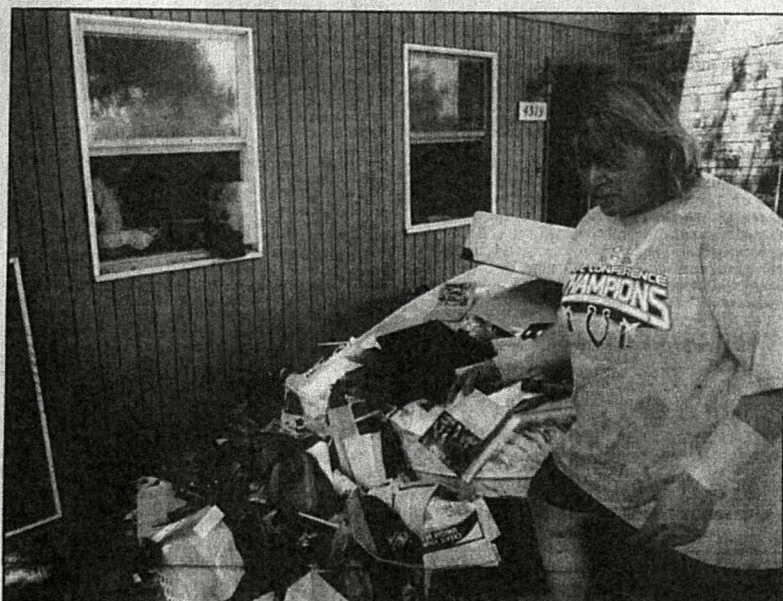
They were taken to a shelter at Spencer Elementary School. The Coast Guard from the Great Lakes district is one of several agencies helping residents deal with flooded homes and businesses.

That includes about 200 Indiana National Guard troops and 140 Marines and sailors who joined local emergency agencies in sandbagging a levee of the White River at Ellettsville, about 100 miles southwest of Indianapolis. The river was forecast to crest Tuesday at nearby Newberry near 29 feet, or 16 feet above flood stage.

Local officials requested help raising nearly a mile of levee as much as 3 feet.

More than 900 Guard troops total were helping.

Gov. Mitch Daniels, who canceled a trade mission to Japan, issued a statement commending the "joint effort between local, state and federal forces."



Wet beginning: Julie Dix (outside) and Amy Dix (in window) remove items from an apartment Monday afternoon in International Village. Sarah Dix's daughter Kelsey and Jerry Cooney were married Saturday and their apartment was flooded during their wedding ceremony. The couple left for their honeymoon and family members were cleaning out destroyed items from the apartment.

Newlyweds: Couple calling from honeymoon for updates

► Continued from A1

The family was able to salvage some personal photographs and some pictures of President Bush — the Cooneys are Bush fans.

When Jerry Cooney left the apartment to go to the Shelnah church Saturday, the rain had stopped and it appeared water was receding.

He moved items into the middle of the floor, never thinking the water would invade the apartment, Sarah Dix said. "We found out at the reception that the water was about 3 feet high inside."

On Monday, she pointed to the water line on the wall as she squished across soaked carpet.

Brand new furniture had been delivered just two weeks ago, and the couple hadn't even made a payment on it, she said. The couple also lost clothes, books and DVDs.

"We feel terrible for them," Sarah Dix said during a short break from the cleanup.

The couple had renters insurance, but not flood insurance.

Sarah Dix said she's never seen anything like the devastation caused by the weekend flood.

"It's awful," she said. "Right now, I think everyone is just in shock, trying to save what they can."

The honeymooners have been calling regularly to ask if certain items are safe, she said.

Also assisting with cleanup was Lisa Vire, Kelsey Cooney's aunt. "I feel bad for every body," said Vire, as she surveyed all the damage. She felt especially bad for her niece.

"This is a sad way to start out your marriage. They have nowhere to live."

International Village Apartments was assisting residents in anyway that it could, said owner Rick Jenkins. Both volunteers and his employees helped residents clear out apartments, move furniture and place ruined items in Dumpsters. About 75 volunteers, including Indiana State University athletes, assisted.

The apartment complex provided Dumpsters for the residents, and renovation work already was beginning.

Some residents were able to move to other, undamaged apartments in the complex.

The flood affected about 150 units, Jenkins said, and he estimated millions in damages just at that complex alone.

"It's devastating to the people that live in the area," he said. "You can't imagine what someone in New Orleans felt like until you see some of this."

Some of his residents had lived there 20 years, others 20 days. "It doesn't matter how

much you have, when you lose it, you lose it and it's devastating," he said. "A loss is a loss."

The good news is that no one got hurt, he said.

Mary Bronson is one who has lived at International Village for about 20 years. On Monday afternoon, she worked in the heat and humidity to salvage what she could, including antique furniture.

She lost her car, a 1994 Toyota Corolla that she had just spent a lot of money on and hoped to keep the rest of her life. "My car is finished," she said.

Currently, she's staying with a friend, although she hopes to move into another apartment in the complex. She hates to leave her present apartment, which has a garden in the back.

On Monday, she moved from room to room, making difficult decisions about what had to be thrown away and what could be saved. Most of the shoes probably had to go.

"I'm tired," she said at one point.

Later, thunder clapped in the distance. "Oh, great Scott."

At the entrance of the com-

plex and at other locations there, representatives of the Army National Guard provided security. Part of their role was to make sure that no looting occurred.

Residents in several subdivisions, including Marywood, also began cleanup. "It's bad. Lots of people have lost everything," said Brent Silver, who lives on Windsor Drive.

The flood damaged his garage, but not his home. On Wednesday, his roof was damaged in another storm, and that, in turn, caused water to enter his home over the weekend.

Silver was on the lookout for looters, and he believes they were in the neighborhood. He talked with one person who claimed to have bought a house across the street from Silver, but then the person gave a wrong address.

A Realtor later told Silver that the house had not been sold. Silver said law enforcement did provide security over the weekend.

Sue Loughlin can be reached at (812) 231-4235 or sueloughlin@tribstar.com.

Read What They're Saying About Cannon Inn



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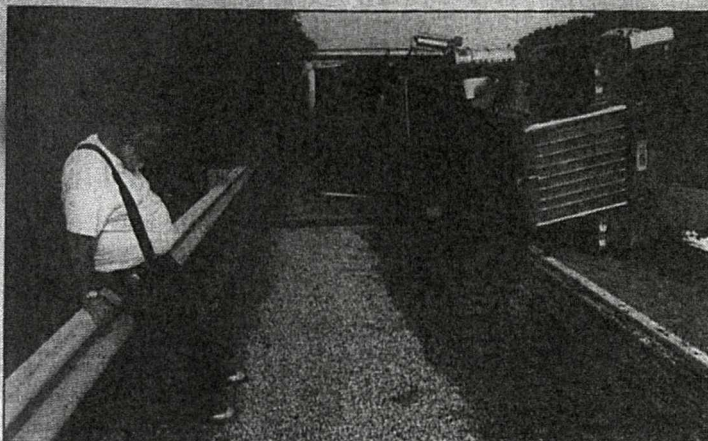
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Semi overturns in I-70 accident



Above, Kenneth Heneisen of Dana rests on the guard rail after his semitrailer wrecked Monday on Interstate 70, west of U.S. 41. No one was injured. Left, a package of sliced cheese, bound for California, sits in Monday's sun after it was thrown from a semitrailer after a wreck on Interstate 70, just west of U.S. 41. Below, numerous boxes of refrigerated cheese, meat and other perishable items bound for California sit on the side of west-bound Interstate 70 after a semitrailer wreck Monday, just west of Terre Haute.

Tribune-Star photos • Joseph C. Garza



ISU responds to flooding

EDITORS NOTE: The following message on the response by Indiana State University to the flooding crisis will send to the campus community by Lloyd W. Benjamin III, president of ISU, on Monday.

Each of us has either experienced first-hand the impact of this past weekend's severe flooding or known someone who has. The Wabash Valley will be dealing with the effects of this tragedy for some time. The university stands ready to help students, faculty, staff and the community at large in rebuilding their lives.

Off-campus students who find themselves in need of temporary housing may contact the Office of Residential Life at (812) 237-3993.

Faculty and staff dealing with flood-related issues at their homes should work with their supervisor in arranging necessary release time. Supervisors are also urged to be flexible in allowing extra travel time to and from work for staff whose regular routes may be closed due to flooding.

For those who want to help others get their lives back on track, financial donations are the most effective means of assisting with immediate relief. Organizations that are accepting donations to assist with local relief include:

- American Red Cross, Wabash Valley Chapter - (812) 232-3393
- Salvation Army - (812) 232-4081
- Catholic Charities - (812) 232-1447
- Sisters of Providence - (812) 535-3810
- Light House Mission - (812) 232-7001
- Hope Crisis Response Network

The ISU Foundation is working to establish an emergency fund for both students and university employees. More details about that fund, including how to apply for assistance and how those not affected by the flooding may contribute, will be forthcoming.

The Helping Hands organi-

zation, located next door to the West Vigo IGA on U.S. 40 in West Terre Haute, has an immediate need for clothing for flood victims, especially children's clothing.

Donations of food, cleaning supplies, clothing and household items may also be collected. Food collected on campus should be donated to Catholic Charities Food Bank for distribution to food pantries throughout the region. Cleaning supplies may be donated to Hope Crisis Response Network or other organizations that are providing volunteers for the cleanup effort.

The Hope Crisis Response Network will arrive in Terre Haute on Tuesday to set up a volunteer center and coordinate long-term relief efforts.

The Hope Crisis Response Network has coordinated ISU's spring break trip for the past three years. With approval of a supervisor, employees will be allowed to take up to one work day with pay for assistance with flood relief efforts. Faculty, staff and students who wish to volunteer are requested to work through the Center for Public Service and Community Engagement by calling 237-2334 or via e-mail at disbel@indstate.edu.

The weekend flooding struck at a time when the university was hosting the annual Indiana Special Olympics and thousands of families from around the state were visiting our campus. While outdoor events were canceled, indoor events continued. I want to take this opportunity to thank the many volunteers from the campus community who pitched in - as they always do - to ensure the success of Special Olympics. This year, some volunteers went well above and beyond what they normally do because others were unable to do so.

It is this commitment to community that makes Indiana State University a special place. I know you will all join with me - each in our own way - in reaching out to students, friends, co-workers, and neighbors whose lives have forever been changed.

Lloyd W. Benjamin III
President
Indiana State University

Battle to save Toad Hop rages on

By ARTHUR E. FOULKES
Tribune-Star

Residents of the small village of Toad Hop, west of West Terre Haute, still are struggling in the aftermath of Saturday's flash flooding.

Several residences in the cluster of homes just south of U.S. 40 were either destroyed or rendered uninhabitable by the high water.

"We've never seen it like this," said Dottie Whitaker, a Toad Hop resident for the past 26 years. "It's never been this bad."

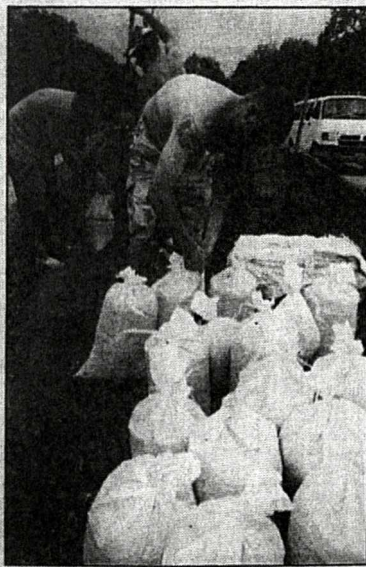
Because many homes were still partly underwater or badly damaged by flooding, many residents were living in the parking lot of the Country Kitchen, a restaurant in the village, said Vicki Oakley, manager of the West Vigo Times, who lives nearby.

"These people have lived here, most of them, all their lives," Oakley said. "They have nowhere to go."

Food for flood victims has been donated by the West Terre Haute IGA and others, said Gary Couch, the township assessor. Portable toilets also have been donated, he said.

"These people haven't had a warm meal since Friday," Oakley said.

The Vigo County Emergency Management Agency delivered empty sandbags for volunteers and others to fill Monday afternoon. Residents worried that the levee at nearby Sugar Creek might break,



Community ties: Casey Thomas, 26, ties the top of a sandbag as other volunteers fill another bag Monday in Toad Hop, west of West Terre Haute off Darwin Road.

Couch said.

Once filled, the sandbags would be used elsewhere rather than to strengthen the levee, Couch added. "We're not

going to put anybody on that levee. We're not going to put anybody in danger," he said.

One family who lost their home in Toad Hop was not

"We've never seen it like this. It's never been this bad."

— DOTTIE WHITAKER,
26-YEAR TOAD HOP RESIDENT

planning to remain in the village.

"We're done here," said Tina Rogers. Rogers and her husband Danny on Monday were removing what belongings they could salvage from their home. The only clothes they could save were the ones they were wearing. Tina Rogers said.

"Everything else is gone," she said. "We don't have anything."

There were some reports of looting in the Toad Hop area since the flooding, residents said. Danny Rogers said the boot mark is still visible where someone kicked the door open to his home. Looters ripped an antique safe out of the wall, he said. The safe contained some collectible coins and currency, he said.

Toad Hop has a population of 153, one resident said.

The people of Toad Hop all know one another and help one another in times of need, several residents said. "All of us are family," Tina Rogers said.

Arthur Foulkes can be reached at (812) 231-4232 or arthur.foulkes@tribstar.com.

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Vermillion County Council president dies at 69

Heart condition
claims John T. Yoho

By HOWARD GRENINGER
TRIBUNE-STAR

Vermillion County lost a longtime community leader Friday when County Council President John T. Yoho died of a heart condition.

His position will be filled after a vote by Democratic precinct committee members. Yoho was 69.

"He was a right and wrong type of person, whether it was me or not, he played no favorites; he was straight across the board," said his nephew, Tim Wilson, president of the Vermillion County Board of Commissioners.

"He is going to be missed by me more than just for being a councilman," said Wilson, 52.

Wilson said his uncle had heart trouble for a number of years. "You knew this would happen, but you are never prepared," he said.

Yoho had been a member of the County Council for 12 years. He had served on the school board of the North Vermillion School Corp. He had retired in 1992 from Inland Container. He was a 1957 graduate of Cayuga High School and a 1958 graduate of the Indiana Business College.

Survivors include his wife; two sisters; five sons; nine grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

"I was always his 'Kelly bell,'" said Kelly Yoho, his 18-year-old grand-

SERVING VERMILLION

John Yoho had been a member of the County Council for 12 years. He had served on the school board of the North Vermillion School Corp. He had retired in 1992 from Inland Container. He was a 1957 graduate of Cayuga High School and a 1958 graduate of the Indiana Business College.

daughter who was working Monday in the County Courthouse.

"I remember him being a friendly

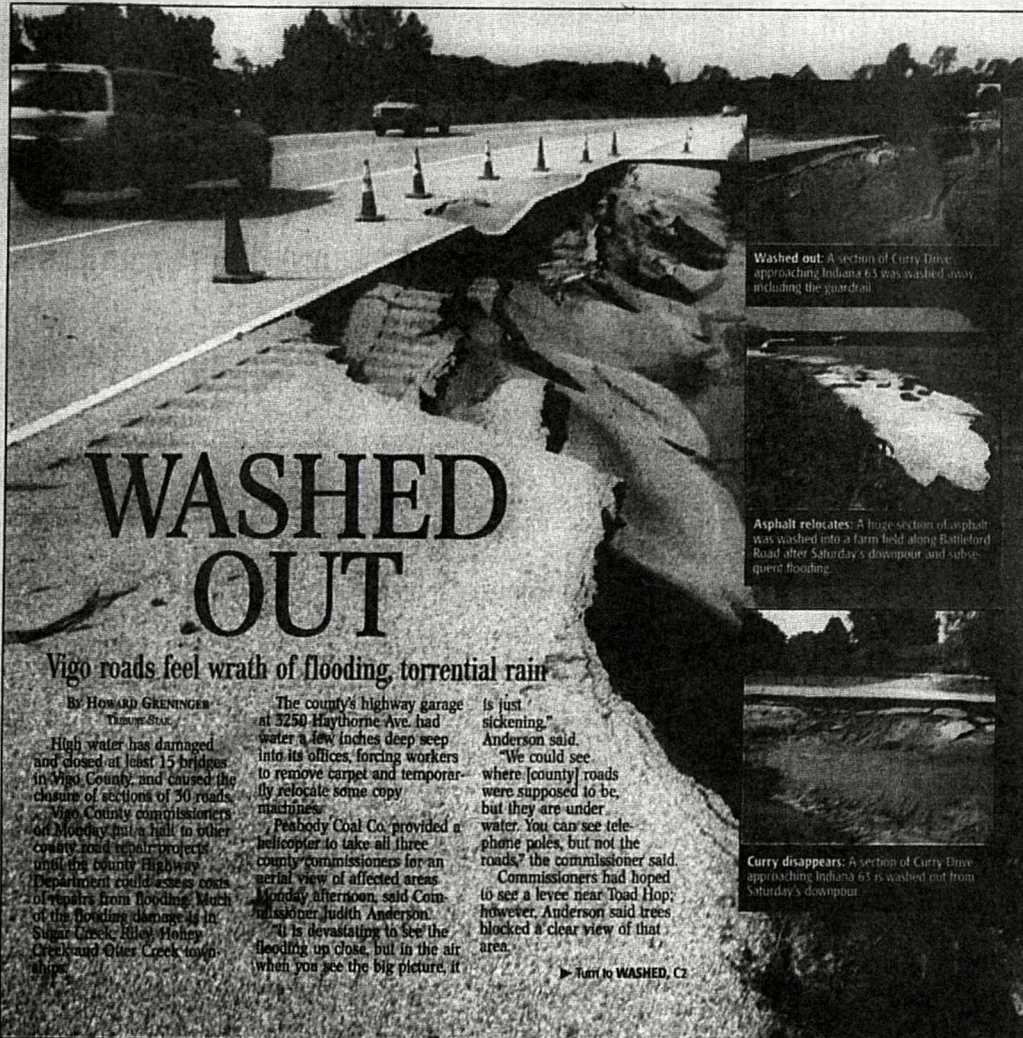
guy, he never met a stranger in his life," she said. "He was a very intelligent man."

"He always spent time with us grandkids playing football or riding bikes or playing cards late at night. He was also very involved with his garden."

"He had a massive heart attack in 1990 and the doctor only gave him two to 10 years, but he lived 18 years," she said.

► Turn to YOH0, C2

FLOOD OF 2008



WASHED OUT

Vigo roads feel wrath of flooding, torrential rain

By HOWARD GRENINGER
TRIBUNE-STAR

High water has damaged and closed at least 15 bridges in Vigo County and caused the closure of sections of 30 roads. Vigo County commissioners on Monday had a hard time in other county road repair projects until the County Highway Department could assess costs of repairs from flooding. Much of the flooding damage is in Sugar Creek, Riley, Honey Creek and Otter Creek townships.

The county's highway garage at 3250 Haythorne Ave. had water a few inches deep seep into its offices, forcing workers to remove carpet and temporarily relocate some copy machines.

Pennsboro Coal Co. provided a helicopter to take all three county commissioners for an aerial view of affected areas Monday afternoon, said Commissioner Judith Anderson.

"It is devastating to see the flooding up close, but in the air when you see the big picture, it

is just sickening," Anderson said.

"We could see where [county] roads were supposed to be, but they are under water. You can see telephone poles, but not the roads," the commissioner said.

Commissioners had hoped to see a levee near Road Hop; however, Anderson said trees blocked a clear view of that area.

► Turn to WASHED, C2

Washed out: A section of Curry Drive, approaching Indiana 63, was washed away, including the guardrail.

Asphalt relocates: A huge section of asphalt was washed into a farm field along Estlinford Road after Saturday's downpour and subsequent flooding.

Curry disappears: A section of Curry Drive, approaching Indiana 63, was washed out from Saturday's downpour.

Tribune-Star photos/Rob Poyner

Buckled: A section of Indiana 63 at Oakridge Parkway collapsed after moving water undercut the roadway Saturday during torrential rains.

Duke Energy: 'Water and electricity do not mix'

Conditions must be deemed safe before power is restored

TRIBUNE-STAR STAFF REPORT

Duke Energy urges residential customers to be patient as county and city officials complete safety inspections of flooded properties in southern Vigo County.

As of 5 p.m. Monday, about 350 flood victims still were without power, according to Rick Burger, district manager for Duke Energy. "Everything on our side is ready to go,"

Burger said, adding that lines had been repaired, but because of so much water in the area, conditions might not be safe to turn the power back on.

"There could be damage in there even when the water goes down," Burger said.

Areas affected include the Marywood subdivision near South Seventh Street and Springfield Drive and the subdivision just to the south of that area.

"We are working with city and county inspectors," Burger said.

► Turn to POWER, C2

State, county health officials offer advice on avoiding risks related to floodwater

By DEB KELLY
TRIBUNE-STAR

State and county health officials are encouraging residents of the Wabash Valley to observe safety precautions in light of recent flooding.

Flooding can pose serious health risks such as exposure to water-borne diseases, drowning and dangers associated with cleaning up flood-damaged areas.

■ **Drinkable water.** To determine if your area is under a boil order, stay tuned to local news outlets. As of Monday afternoon, the only water system in the Wabash Valley to warrant a boil order was Jaccoville, in Greene County. There was water at the Jaccoville Fire Station, and residents were

INSIDE

■ The weekend flood has threatened the statewide blood supply since many scheduled mobile drives had to be canceled. C2

advised to bring their own containers. Local public safety officials are working on getting bottled water. The location is open 24 hours. It is suggested that residents of Jaccoville avoid using regular silverware and plates and instead use paper plates and plasticware for sanitary reasons. Water should be conserved for drinking. In addition, flooding has called into question the safety of many well systems, according to the Indiana State Department of Health.

► Turn to WATER, C2

Flooding threatens state's blood supply

By DEB KELLY
TRIBUNE-STAR

The weekend flood has threatened the statewide blood supply since many scheduled mobile drives had to be canceled.

Rising floodwaters and related storm damage forced Indiana Blood Center to cancel several mobile blood drives in Indiana over the weekend. Two drives in southwest Indiana scheduled for Monday were canceled as well.

All 13 donation centers throughout the state have been and continue to remain open. The weekend blood drives were scheduled in Decatur, Johnson, Morgan and Shelby counties.

"We see the most donors during the week, so the weekend cancellations were not enough to affect our overall supply. It is those mobile drives canceled into the week that are now a concern," said Laura Ghoulame, associate director of donor services.

Organizations interested in hosting a blood drive to help ensure a stable ongoing blood supply in Indiana are encouraged to call 1-800-632-4722 and speak with the donor services department.

Hoosiers in areas not affected by flooding are encouraged to visit a mobile drive in their area or one of 13 donation centers around Indiana. For an up-to-date list of mobile drives and donation center locations, visit www.donorpoint.org and click on "Find a Drive."

Indiana Blood Center supplies more than 350 units of blood to more than 60 Indiana hospitals every day.

The Terre Haute substation, at 2021 S. Third St., remains open "and people are more than welcome to come in," according to the substation manager, Mary Ann Lumaye.

Call the Terre Haute branch of C's Indiana Blood Center at (812) 238-2495.

Deb Kelly can be reached at (812) 231-4254 or deb.kelly@tribstar.com.

After flooding, Shawnee Company evacuated from buildings

The Shawnee Theatre's 49th season is scheduled to open on Thursday in Bloomfield, but about 12:30 a.m. Sunday the theater company was ordered by local authorities to evacuate the theater and housing facilities.

About 20 actors, designers and managers waded through

the rising waters to vehicles parked down the road in a nearby lot. Shawnee board members Miriam and Laverne Rollison have opened their home to the company, providing beds, food and, above all, security. Other board members were organizing food and supplies for the next 48 hours.

Rehearsals for "Godspell," scheduled to open on Thursday, will be staged in Bloomfield High School today thanks to music teacher Laura Young, a Shawnee board member. The plan currently is to open "Godspell" as scheduled, but it will be dependent on the condition of Furnace Road, which leads to

the theater. The road was submerged in water on Monday and closed to traffic. Performances of "Godspell" are scheduled for Thursday-Saturday at 8 p.m. with a Sunday matinee at 2 p.m. The theater has been generously sponsored by WTHI, The Bloomfield Free Press and the Indiana Arts Commission.

Author to discuss Alcatraz at book signing

TRIBUNE-STAR STAFF REPORT
Marshall, Ill.

Jim Albright of Terre Haute will discuss his newly released book at a book talk and signing at 6:30 p.m. Thursday in Marshall Public Library's Dale McConchie Meeting Room.

His book is titled "Last Guard Out: A Riveting Account by the Last Guard to Leave Alcatraz" and will be available for purchase at the book signing.

"Last Guard Out" is the true story of one man's life as a prison guard behind the merciless concrete walls of Alcatraz. Being newly assigned to the infamous island penitentiary of Alcatraz, Albright reported to duty after moving his wife,

Cathy, and young son Kenny from Colorado to California. As they approached San Francisco via the Oakland Bay Bridge, their first foreboding glance of Alcatraz island surrounded by a dense circle of fog gave Albright a strange sense of dread. However, after moving onto Alcatraz they came to enjoy island life and decided not to apply for a transfer out. Consequently, Albright was there until the prison closed in March 1963, making him "The Last Guard Out."

Call the library at (217) 826-2535 to register for this free program if possible. Marshall Public Library is handicapped accessible and is at 612 Archer Ave., Marshall.

Flooded photos can be saved

ASSOCIATED PRESS • Indianapolis

Indiana residents who thought they lost a lifetime of memories when floodwaters swamped their photo albums along with their homes can save those images if they take quick action to prevent mold from ruining them, a state official says.

Indiana State Archivist Jim Corridan said flood victims can use the same steps government officials will use to salvage offi-

cial government records to save their family photos.

He said quick action can prevent mold damage to wet photos, paper documents and even books.

Residents should first quickly rinse water-logged photos and documents with clear water, if possible, to carefully wash away silt and mud.

Those photos and documents should then be dried as completely as possible in a room with good air circulation.

Power: Customers urged to remain patient

► Continued from C1

"They've got to give us a green tag saying it's safe ... for every inspector, we've got one or two people [from Duke Energy] turning meters back on."

"We really appreciate people, how they've teamed up in this community, the other utilities, the Sheriff's Department, emergency management people - we've all hopefully worked together as a team ... I also want to compliment the city for stepping forward and doing such a great job. They've added additional people to deal with the situation ..."

"We just haven't seen anything like this before," Burger said.

In addition to ongoing issues in Vigo County, Duke

Energy is dealing with flooding of its Edwardsport plant in Knox County, Burger said. Currently, the utility is sandbagging to save its switchyard for that plant.

Again, Burger urged customers in Vigo County to remain patient.

"We just want to be sure it's a safe condition," he said. "Water and electricity do not mix."

"We're making progress," he said Monday evening.

Burger said anyone experiencing unsafe conditions or dealing with an electricity emergency should call Duke toll free at 1-800-521-2232.

The Terre Haute city inspector can be reached at (812) 232-5823. The Vigo County inspector's office can be reached at (812) 462-3365.

Yoho: Position must be filled within 30 days

► Continued from C1

Councilwoman LaVonna Mattick said Yoho "tried to keep an eye on the county budget, like all of us, and keep expenses down. John was very conscientious and took that job very seriously and he will be missed."

Henry J. Antonini, chairman of the Vermillion County Democratic Party, said he will call a party caucus within 10 days. "The position must be filled within 30 days. There are four precinct committee members who will cast a

vote," Antonini said.

A candidate must obtain a majority vote, at least three votes, to win the party nomination, he said. Candidates must notify Antonini of their intention to seek the District 3 County Council position no later than 72 hours prior to the caucus, he said. The nominated candidate will fill out Yoho's term, which expires Dec. 31, 2010.

Howard Greninger can be reached at (812) 231-4204 or howard.greninger@tribstar.com.

Water: Mold may be a concern, but drying things out is first step

► Continued from C1

Unreated sanitary waste can end up in waterways and on streets when heavy rain overwhelms sewer systems and treatment plants.

Wells that are located in a flooded area should be assumed to be contaminated. Health officials recommend people discontinue use of the well water until it can be inspected by a professional well contractor.

Even when the water recedes, E. coli and other pathogens remain present in pools of standing water. Individuals on well systems are urged to get their well water tested before starting to use the water again. Health officials recommend using bottled water for drinking, cooking, brushing teeth, and bathing until well water has been tested.

The Indiana State Department of Health will provide water sampling kits to local health departments. The State Department of Health has waived the cost for analyzing samples, and results should be available within a few days of receipt.

Information on how to disinfect contaminated well water is available on the State Department of Health's Web site, www.statehealth.in.gov; by clicking on the flood sanitation tips link at the top of the page.

■ **Mold concerns.** According to Travella Myers at the Vigo County Health Department, mold may become a problem for homeowners in the coming days and weeks, "but right now they need to dry things out as quickly as they can."

Some tips for safely cleaning up a home or business after the floodwaters recede include:

1. Turn off the electricity
2. Clean and dry wet light fixtures before turning the electricity back on;
3. Some items that cannot be salvaged after a flood and must be thrown away, such as wet ceiling tiles, paper products, baseboards, gypsum board (also known as dry wall), and insulation;
4. Carpets may be saved by wet vacuuming, shampooing, and making certain the carpet is completely dry;

5. Mattresses or other large items soaked with floodwater will probably have to be discarded. Some mattresses can be salvaged after disinfecting and air drying.

6. Wipe wood and metal studs with a bleach solution and allow to air dry.

7. If possible, open windows and doors during the cleanup process and leave them open for at least 24 hours.

■ **Disease/bacteria.** State health officials recommend people in flooded areas make sure they are up to date on their tetanus immunizations. Routine tetanus boosters are recommended every 10 years. For people who receive more serious wounds, a tetanus booster is appropriate if they have not received one within the last five years.

Any type of wound, major or minor, could be an entry source for the tetanus organism. State health officials advise anyone who suffers an injury from materials affected by floodwaters to seek immediate medical attention.

Tetanus vaccines are available from your primary health care provider or your local

health department. A complete listing of local health departments is available on the State Department of Health Web site at: www.statehealth.in.gov; by clicking on "Indiana Local Health Departments"

Individuals exposed to floodwaters should wash their hands thoroughly with warm, soapy water. For household cleaning after floodwater contamination, disinfect all surfaces. A bleach solution of one cup chlorine bleach to one gallon of water works well.

Once floodwater recedes, remaining standing water on properties is the perfect breeding ground for mosquitoes that carry the West Nile virus. After it is safe to start cleanup efforts, state health officials recommend people dispose of old tires, tin cans, plastic containers, ceramic pots or other unused containers that can hold water; repair failed septic systems; keep grass cut short and shrubbery trimmed; and clean clogged roof gutters, particularly if leaves tend to plug up the drains.

Deb Kelly can be reached at (812) 231-4254 or deb.kelly@tribstar.com.

Washed: County roads closed are listed on county Web site

► Continued from C1

Commissioner Paul Mason said North Terre Haute and West Terre Haute, as well as southern portions of the county along the Wabash River, have flooding problems. "I did not see any homes under water, but some are very, very close. Some of that water may have already reached many homes and receded," Mason said.

The county, Mason said, hopes to obtain federal assistance to repair roads and bridges; however, if no funding is provided, the county will be faced with prioritizing efforts. "Right now, it will be very tight [financially] until we get the OK" for assistance,

Mason said.

Jerry Lindsey, county highway superintendent, said the Highway Department is documenting each area to identify for state or federal officials should funds be designated for repairs. Currently, Vigo County is one of 29 counties covered under a federal disaster aid for measures such as water, food, power generators, medical supplies, cots and housing assistance when local and state resources have been exhausted.

The federal approval does not include individual and public assistance or Small Business Administration loans.

Water destroyed at least two county bridges, one on Thralls Drive, between Regan

and Arms Place; and a second on Hollingsworth between New Goshen Road and Whitesell Road, said County Engineer Jerry Netherlain.

"Those bridges will be out until we can get a new bridge design and get them replaced," Netherlain said. "Other bridges have some sections washed out, or a tree on an abutment. We have no idea of cost until we can get under the bridges and look at them. Some we can repair and get back open."

On Monday evening, there were police dispatches of other bridges washed out in southern Vigo County, including two on Sullivan Place, a north/south road in south-

western Vigo County.

In addition, many roads have medium to large drainage tubes that have washed out, causing collapses in the road, such as Singhurst Road between Gross and Woodsmall Roads; Woodsmall Road between McDaniel and Doberman; and Curry Drive, which has a large section washed out between Collins and Indiana 63, Lindsey said.

County roads closed because of high water are listed on Vigo County's Web site at www.vigocounty.org and can be viewed by clicking on "highway department."

Howard Greninger can be reached at (812) 231-4204 or howard.greninger@tribstar.com.

June 11th. 2008

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 11, 2008

SERVING TERRE HAUTE AND THE WABASH VALLEY

50¢ NEWSSTAND

DRYING OUT

FOCUS MOVES FROM RESCUES TO DISASTER RELIEF FUNDING

By BRIAN M. BOYCE
TRIBUNE-STAR

The flood rescues are pretty much all over, but cleanup will be ongoing, local officials said Tuesday.

Dorene Hohnick, director of the Vigo County Emergency Management Agency, said the number of people housed at local shelters such as Terre Haute North and South Vigo high schools was only 11 Monday night, down from as many as 150 this weekend, not including the scores driven from medical facilities for the elderly and those evacuated to family



Hohnick

members' homes. "Surprisingly, they're not terribly overpacked at this time," she said of the shelters, noting that facilities are still open just in case they're needed.

Weekend rain totals of about 7 inches caused some of the worst flooding ever to affect the Wabash Valley.

► Turn to RELIEF, A4



Tribune-Star/Jim Avelis

Here to help: Commercial cleaning companies are hard at work helping homeowners clean up from the weekend flooding. This work is being done in Marywood subdivision.



Tribune-Star/Jim Avelis

So far, so good: Duane Wampler talks about the state of the levee along the Wabash River just north of Indiana 154 in Sullivan County. With help from volunteers including offenders from the Wabash Valley Correctional Facility in Carlisle, the levee is holding, so far.

Officials looking at what's next for Valley cleanup

By CRYSTAL GARCIA
AND BRIAN M. BOYCE
TRIBUNE-STAR

INSIDE

- Floods have farmers scrambling with crops, C1
- Indiana residents begin recovery efforts, C2
- Cummins Behavioral Health Systems Inc. will offer free counseling today for anyone suffering stress from recent flooding, C2

It's recovery time for the Wabash Valley as area emergency management agencies continued to survey flood damage Tuesday and plan for what's next.

Jasonville residents still didn't have drinking water by Tuesday night as plans were set to sandbag, drain and repair where high floodwater ruptured a water main, said Roger Axe, director of Greene County EMA.

Worthington residents are encouraged to not drink or use their water, he said, noting the National Guard has moved two large trucks of water to local fire departments for the residents.

"Recovery is not the glamorous part of this, it's the immediate response, and recovery is always slow going," Axe said. "It could take years ... We want to try to get these people back on their feet as fast as we can and as quick as we can."

► Turn to CLEANUP, A5

Red Cross brings food to victims as salvage continues

By DEANTAE PRINCE
TRIBUNE-STAR

Marywood subdivision and International Village apartments on Tuesday afternoon were stirring with residents and littered with what was left of their belongings.

They faced a more immediate problem than most who were flooded out by the catastrophic weekend rains. The apartments already were being gutted, and that meant they had to salvage what they could from the first floor.

Katrina Mazique and her son were residents of that first floor. She had to move her things out today or they'd be thrown out tomorrow, she

said. While moving, she summed up the wreckage that was once her home.

"Everything in the apartment is messed up," Mazique said. "From the carpet, to the walls and everybody's household items. Most of the people downstairs don't have a place to stay."

The American Red Cross delivered relief to the people of Marywood and International Village on Tuesday. They provided pamphlets with a list of shelters, and food and water through their mobile feeding schedule, which made meals available to assist Vigo County residents affected by the thunderstorms.

► Turn to FOOD, A4

Cleanup: Monday's rain missed much of Vermillion

► Continued from A1

Vermillion County also was in recovery mode, said EMA public information officer Kurt Lowry. The county recently had received a delivery of cleaning kits and personal supply kits for residents from the Red Cross.

Monday's rain missed much of the county, he said, noting that heavy rains were still holding up and the river level was dropping. As water levels continued to fall, the county's biggest concern will be health, he said.

Food grows fast and most livestock and water isn't getting the proper ventilation. There's also a lot of sewage and septic tank contents in the flood water, he urged residents to check their health records for the date of their last tetanus shot.

Residents of Clay County also should be aware of their last tetanus shot date, according to EMA director Bryan Hubbard, who also encouraged residents to use a lot of hand sanitizer and watch for mold and mildew.

Overall, they've been collecting data from homeowners and assessing road damages with water running over Indiana 59 and 246, he said.

"Jay County's starting to kind of just get everything back together," Hubbard said.

Hubbard warned residents that officials from the Federal Emergency Management Agency are not in town yet because there hasn't been a federal declaration of emergency for the county yet, so be wary of anyone who identifies themselves as a FEMA representative to inspect a home.

While Kim White, Parke County's EMA director, also was collecting data and assessing damage, she was also monitoring the Raccoon Lake area, which may have to release water from its spill way.

Should that need to be done, she said residents will be notified, but they want to release it between rains to avoid more of a mess later.

Still, for Parke County, things haven't been too bad, she said with most people sandbagging out of concern for their basement walls and foundation.

"People just need to be prepared, too, to be on their own for up to three days in case of emergency, too," White said. "They need to have emergency kits with water and food prepared."

Larry Rush stood next to the creek that used to be his back yard at 5725 South Indiana 63.

"My wife's lived here since 1985 and never had any problems," he said.

But Honey Creek literally

swelled about 150 square feet off the property, taking the ground right out from under a chain-link fence left hanging over the remaining water, the bottom of which was about six feet below.

"The bad thing is you can't hardly get flood insurance unless you're in the flood plain," he said.

Family members were carrying out ruined carpet from the garage-turned-rec room, where water stood six inches over the weekend.

And it wasn't just the humans who took a beating either, he said.

"There was a pig coming down in the middle of [the creek]. I thought he was a goose but he made it," Rush said.

Down on the south side of Indiana 154 between Grayville and the Wabash River, Shane Snyder, Travis Anderson and Caleb Monroe, by hand, were straightening black plastic lining that strips a 36-acre watermelon field.

The plastic strips act as a mulch for the watermelon plants, but the weekend rains drove the strips all over the field and at some places on top of the budding plants.

"It's hit and miss," Anderson said, noting "it's a little bit warm today" as the three trudged through the sandy field digging the plastic back in place by hand.

"That's what we have the young one there for," Snyder said, pointing at Monroe. "To bend over."

Robinson, Ill., was visible in the distance, and farther down the road just west of Grayville off Indiana 154, farmer Duane Wampler, chairman of the Island Levy, said thousands of acres of planted farmland is underwater with ruined crops.

"We're at a standstill right now," he said of work on the levee and road closures.

The Wabash River was at 28.3 feet Monday and 28.4 feet Tuesday, he said.

The levee at Vincennes broke, spilling onto the Illinois line and flooding "the entire

prairie" to Lawrenceville, Ill., he said. That break will relieve pressure on the Indiana side, but it puts acres by the thousands under water, he said.

About 4,700 acres he knows of, full of seed corn, wheat, potatoes and field corn, are down, and Wampler and his son have about 3,400 acres down themselves.

Area workers had labored all last week after previous rains to hold the levees, but all that work was undone in a matter of hours Friday and Saturday, he said.

"Crop insurance pays carries expenses. It leaves you nothing to buy groceries in the winter for the family," he said, noting he might have lost as much as \$400,000 in this year's revenue already.

"We're worried what seed corn is going to cost next year," he said, noting that areas of Iowa and Nebraska likewise have been plagued by heavy rains.

Many of the farmers sell their crops in advance on contract, and those that have might be forced to make up the difference between the contracted price and market prices, which are rising by the day.

"Fertilizer's the same way," he said, explaining that when supply of any commodity drops, the price goes up. "It's just supply and demand."

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Brian Boyce can be reached at (812) 231-4253 or brian.boyce@tribstar.com.

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TERRE HAUTE

Well water needs testing after flood

Recent floods have prompted health departments to urge individuals on well systems to get their well water tested before starting to use the water again.

Health officials recommended using bottled water for drinking, cooking, brushing teeth, and bathing until well water has been tested.

The Indiana State Department of Health will provide water sampling kits to local health departments. Individuals on well systems may obtain sampling kits from their local health departments. Collection and shipping of the kits for testing will be the responsibility of the individual and not the local health department.

State health officials say time is crucial for anyone wanting to have their well water tested. No more than 30 hours may have elapsed from the time a sample is collected to the time that sample is received by a lab for testing. Samples received after 30 hours cannot be tested.

To ensure delivery time within the 30 hours required for testing, individuals may wish to use a private courier system, such as United Parcel Service or Federal Express. Individuals also may take the sample to the State Department of Health lab in person between 8:15 a.m. and 4:45 p.m., Monday through Friday. The lab is at 550 W. 16th Street in downtown Indianapolis. The State Department of Health has waived the cost for analyzing samples, and results should be available within a few days of receipt. Positive test results will be reported by phone, and negative test results will be sent by mail. Individuals with questions on their well water results can call the lab at (317) 921-5522.

FLOOD BRIEFLY

From Tribune-Star staff reports

Individuals also can have a private lab test their well water samples. Information on how to detect contaminated well water is available on the State Department of Health's Web site at www.statehealth.dhs.gov by clicking on the flood summation tips link at the top of the page.

TERRE HAUTE

Flood conditions delay WET review

Federal and state officials, citing flood conditions around Indiana,

have delayed a review of the Wabash Environmental Technology property to determine any necessary cleanup actions.

"We will do a site assessment at the facility and that will be through the Super Fund. We are planning to go back shortly and conduct our site assessment, which will be to take samples and investigate everything that is there," said Theresa Holt, on-scene coordinator for U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

At issue is potential environmental hazards on the site.

"We will be looking to see if there are issues that we need to be concerned about that we need to come back and clean up," Holt said.

Amy Harbstock, a spokeswoman for the Indiana Department of Environmental Management, said the agency will assist EPA with any inspection or investigation of the now closed plant at 1331 S. First St.

"We are not there [on Monday]," but both IDEM and EPA plan to return, Harbstock said.

Nick Hays, spokesman for the EPA, said an inspector assigned to

WET has been dealing with flooding issues in Indiana. Harbstock said IDEM also has been addressing flooding concerns.

Officials used a search warrant to enter the property last month, but no samples of materials were taken and no items were seized.

WET was a wastewater treatment facility. The company president, Derrick Hagerman, was sentenced late last year by a federal judge to five years in prison for falsifying documents related to the discharge of materials into the Wabash River.

TERRE HAUTE

Health Department offers tetanus shots

The Vigo County Health Department Clinic will offer tetanus shots for \$5 from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. today through Friday at 696 S. First St.

No appointment is necessary. The location is the southwest corner of the Vigo County Annex. Call (812) 462-3431 for more information.

Health Department officials recommend people in flooded areas make sure they are up to date on their tetanus immunizations. Routine tetanus boosters are recommended every 10 years. For people who receive more serious wounds, a tetanus booster is appropriate if they have not received one within the past five years.

Tetanus is an acute, often fatal disease caused by an exotoxin. Symptoms of tetanus include generalized rigidity and painful spasms of skeletal muscles.

Ladies...

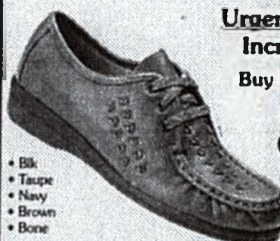
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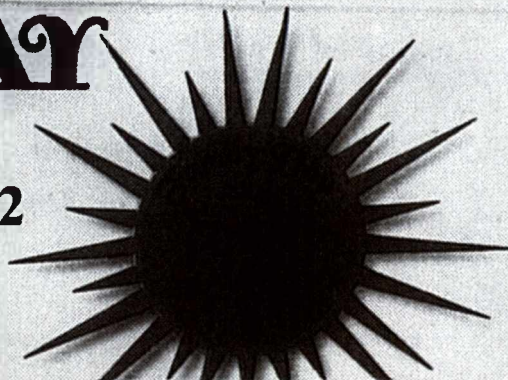
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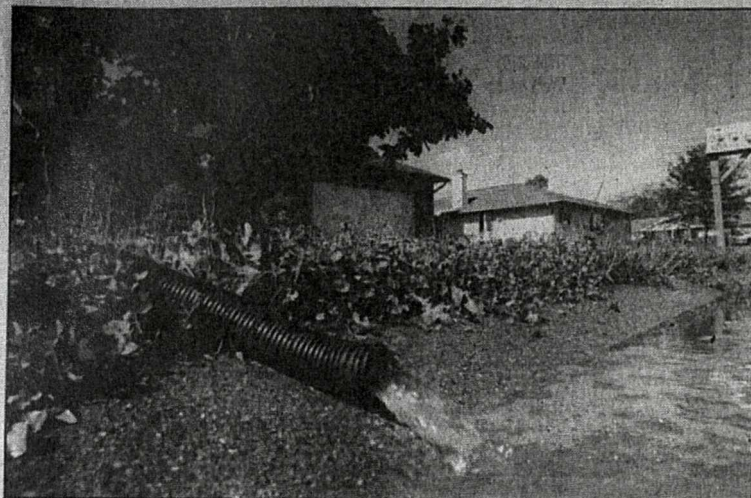
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Tribune-Star/Don Avelis

Familiar sight: Sump pumps gurgled water into the streets throughout Marywood subdivision Tuesday, clearing rainwaters from basements and crawl spaces.

Relief: Dever, Coke, Pepsi, Wal-Mart donate water

► Continued from A1

Most questions being asked by the public now are concerning funds from the Federal Emergency Management Agency, and when the Disaster Field Offices will be open and ready to accept applications.

"We don't know that at this time," Hohnicki said, adding that as soon as that information is available, it will be made public.

In the meantime, people can go the Vigo County Web site, or the Indiana Department of Homeland Security's Web site, for information. Or, lacking Internet service, they can physically go to the Emergency Management Office at Farrington and Fourth streets for information.

Carol Stevens, executive director of the Wabash Valley Chapter of the American Red Cross, said relief work continues throughout the region.

"Today we delivered meals up in the North Terre Haute area, the West Terre Haute area, the International Village and the Marywood area," she said, noting that more than 500 cleanup kits have been disbursed since this week-end's flooding. "I couldn't even begin to tell you how many cases of water have been handed out."

Dever Distributing, Coca-Cola, Pepsi and Wal-Mart have donated bottled water by the pallets, she said, adding that "help from other Red Cross chapters has started to come in."

Red Cross service centers will be opened throughout the Wabash Valley this week, and those locations will be publicized once they're ready, she said.

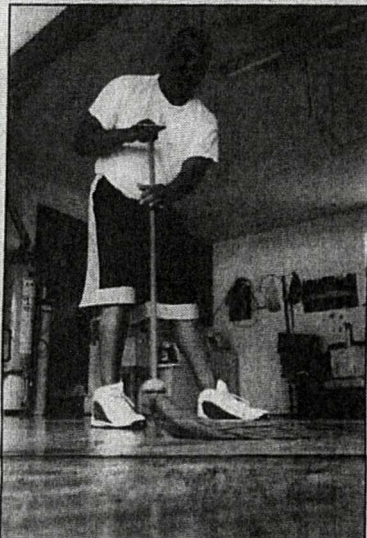
"They've done a great job," Hohnicki said of the Red Cross, noting the agency and their volunteers not only have staffed the shelters but have provided food to the first responders.

"We're not capable of accepting any kind of funds here," Hohnicki said of the EMA offices, noting that donations should be directed to the Red Cross.

Individuals wishing to volunteer for the cleanup projects can contact the EMA or the Red Cross, she said.

Hohnicki reminded citizens to be wary of scam artists calling and claiming to be with FEMA or other relief agencies.

"No one from a government agency is going to call you on the phone and ask for money or personal information," she said, encouraging people to contact police about suspicious attempts at getting their Social Security number or banking information.



Tribune-Star/Don Avelis

Cleanup continues: Hulet Barbee mops floodwaters Tuesday evening from his garage along Azalia Drive.

And, Hohnicki said to be wary of standing water and closed roads.

"Please, don't move the (road closed) signs. Please don't drive through the signs," she said.

Rushing waters have carried off several manhole covers, leaving invisible holes that lead straight into flood sewers, she said. Children should be careful of playing in the polluted water as they could step into one of the holes and be rushed into the underground sewers, she said.

Brian Boyce can be reached at (812) 231-4253 or brian.boyce@tribstar.com.

ON THE COVER

Still here: Azalia Drive in Marywood subdivision lays under rank brown water Tuesday afternoon. Tens of thousands of decaying earthworms combined with the 80-plus degree temperatures and rotting vegetable matter to raise a stench.

Tribune-Star/Don Avelis

HELP AVAILABLE

The Vigo County Emergency Management Office at Fourth and Farrington streets can be reached at (812) 462-3217.

The American Red Cross can be reached at (812) 232-3393, ext. 11, or evolvers@wabashvalleyredcross.org.

Drinking water is available at the following locations:

- Terre Haute International Airport/Hulman Field
- The Riley Fire Department
- The Honey Creek Fire Department
- Stations 92, 93, and 94

Sendings are available at the following locations:

- Riley Fire Department
- Honey Creek Fire Department
- Stations 92 and 94
- Prairie Fire Department
- Otter Creek Middle School
- Honey Creek Middle School
- Danvers Road and U.S. 40
- South Seventh Street at the former Maryland Community Church across from Terre Haute Regional Hospital



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Food: 'It's very eye-opening to see the needs that people have'

► Continued from A1

The food delivery started around lunchtime and targeted the areas of Park Avenue, West Terre Haute and the Heritage Trail area. A second shift was performed at 4 p.m. in International Village and Marywood.

The Red Cross will continue to provide meals based on the need, and will go out in other areas today.

A scene similar to the International Village was on display nearby in Marywood.

Garages on every block were open as people removed their soaked possessions to the grass, which sat in front of a flooded street that still couldn't be driven.

Donald Dicus and his wife, Krystal, had just returned to the house they evacuated in Donald's boat on Saturday. They had gathered their two kids and family members and left as soon as possible.

Krystal said the worst part of the evacuation was seeing how the situation affected her girls.

"The hardest part was just watching their toys float in their bedroom," Dicus said. "We can deal with losing our clothes and our stuff, but those are our kids' things."

When they returned, the kids returned to mud in their bedrooms, and Dicus said that was another aspect of the flooding that was hard.

The Dicus family was one of many in the 900 block of Azalia Drive - one of the streets hit the hardest - who filled their lawns with their soaked possessions. They said the real cleaning will start in a couple days, and they've just started moving things out now.

Donald Dicus said the flooring would have to be replaced and her car was flooded.

The water that filled the street was something that didn't sit well with him.

"It's knowing you and your kids are in this water that contains feces, and urine and oil and gas," Donald said. "My oldest daughter has rashes and bites on her arms from ants that were all over the place. You don't know if you should get yourself looked at or what."

A second after telling this story, the Dicus family was back to joking with their neighbors. After realizing the shift in emotion, Krystal explained how the flood brought the neighborhood together.

"I never talk to this neighbor, ever," Dicus said. "You really find out what your community's like when things like this happen."

Dan Rueckert is part of a church community that was willing to help. He volunteered through The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, and said it felt great to provide for people.

"It's very eye-opening to see the needs that people have," Rueckert said. "Being able to fill that need, it just melts your heart."

Contributions to the Disaster Relief Fund may be sent to the American Red Cross Wabash Valley Chapter, 700 S. Third St., Terre Haute IN 47807. Contributions can also be made by calling (812) 232-3393 or visiting wabashvalleyredcross.org.

DeAntae Prince can be reached at (812) 231-4214 or deantae.prince@tribstar.com.



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